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## Maclean's

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## A million-dollar turtle

44 Lumpy but lovable Franklin the turtle, the character in a series of books by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark, has become a star of international children's culture. The Franklin series—which may soon be adapted for TV—is part of a boom in Canadian KidLit, with a profusion of fanfare, more visually appealing books by authors including Robert Munsch and Tim Wynne-Jones.



## Chrétien's unity gambit

16 Prime Minister Jean Chrétien took unilateral action to respond to Quebec's post-referendum demands—including recognition as a distinct society and a veto over future constitutional change. Reaction in the West was quick—and negative.



## Plugging in to profits

36 As recently as a year ago, the on-line world was dominated by scholars, scientists and hard-core techies. But whether the parties like it or not, the Internet is now a multi-billion-dollar industry. And in the boardrooms of corporate Canada, the race to cash in on the Net's explosive growth has become a stampede.



## Kids at work

28 The use of child labor is growing as developing countries rush to compete in the world economy. This holiday season, activists are targeting major North American toy companies whose overseas suppliers may employ children under 14. Many corporations have policies on overseas labor standards, but enforcement can be difficult. Meanwhile, a Canadian 12-year-old has started a campaign to help child laborers working in dire conditions.





# LETTERS

## 'Proudly Canadian'

Regarding your cover story on *Synovate* star Pamela Lee ("The most famous Canadian?" Cover, Nov. 27), why do you even ask? Pamela is seen in 140 countries on a weekly basis. She is proudly Canadian and never hesitates to let anyone know that fact. She is the woman of the moment and an obvious goodwill ambassador for Canada.

Ann Gertik,  
Hawthorn



Lee; she is the woman of the moment and a goodwill ambassador for Canada

You truly must be joking! There are only two reasons why Pamela Lee is famous, and neither of them is her sparkling accent or dazzling acting abilities.

Elizabeth MacDonald Peart,  
Kingston, Ont. B6

Who on earth is Pamela Lee? We have a Canadian astronaut who just helped accomplish a marvelous first in space, and you put her on the cover?

Ruth Walker,  
Calgary, Ont.

I am sure there are some people who have said that Pamela Lee does not deserve a spot on the cover of *Maclean's*. I am pleased to see average Canadians who have made it to the big time grace your cover, as opposed to our elected officials who, when they finally do something, usually mess it up. Please keep giving the spotlight to those who deserve it, such as artists, actors, sports figures and other innovative Canadians.

Jeff P. Holloway,  
Calgary B6

## Real estate news

I enjoyed Steve Cameron's article in Jack Rabenovich ("Minding the books," Business, Nov. 6). I would, however, like to correct a comment made concerning Trans Corp. Ltd., with whom Mr. Rabenovich was employed for many years. The company did not "crash into bankruptcy" as mentioned in the article. There has continuously operated for 35 years and successfully completed a recapitalization in July 1994. It remains the largest publicly held Canadian real estate company and one of the largest in North America.

David Quate,  
Director, corporate communications,  
Trans Corp. Ltd.,  
Toronto

## Highway safety

I was very surprised with your misleading article on the multi-polluted and unsanitized problems in the trucking industry ("Highway horror show," *Transpant*, Nov. 13). The media have chosen to ignore the fact that trucks are involved in only five per cent of all fatal collisions. And of that five per cent, tractors have been found blameless 73 per cent of the time. I don't deny that trucking requires a high level of safety, but the solution is mandatory driver education and retesting for all drivers, annual safety checks for all vehicles and stronger penalties for all violations.

Anna B. Jewings,  
Brampton, Ont.

You offer three reasons for trucking accidents: mechanical defects, drunk drivers and their mechanics. I suggest that a fourth significant factor is the pressure put on drivers and mechanics by employers who demand low-cost performance. Drivers would not be pushing fatigue limits if their employers enforced federal regulations limiting driving time to 13 or at every 24 hours. If a truck is found to be unsafe by authorities, the driver is fired, not the owner. Perhaps a matching fine for the owner would bring the message home.

Red Payton,  
Kamloops, B.C. B6

## Troubled island

Blood cannot be washed by blood. That is the tragic story of the Sri Lankan civil war ("The Canadian connection," *World*, Nov. 27). Canada has been kind to the Tamil community. It has enabled them to give generous humanitarian aid to their brethren in Sri Lanka. Any form of aid to purchase arms, however, prolongs the war. The 125,000-strong Tamil community in Canada can do much to pressure the Sri Lankan govern-

ment and Tamil Tigers to seek UN mediation. The goal should be to implement an immediate ceasefire and initiate negotiations for a permanent political settlement.

James Nicholas,  
International secretary, World Council  
for Global Corporations,  
Toronto

You portray the Sri Lankan government as moderate and sincere in solving the ethnic issue. I am sure that the past behavior of Sri Lankan governments, all their sincerity was shown a few months after an international meeting in the spring that agreed to provide the country with more than \$5 billion in loans. After it received the aid, the government pursued the war with vigor. The West should not get angry with just the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for prolonging the war.

Sushila Thandhimaran,  
Toronto

## Reader's choice

As a Canadian who recently moved to the United States, I was intrigued by Peter C. Newman's argument that only Canadian bookstores would promote Canadian authors ("The book trade: keeping it Canadian," *The Nation's Business*, Nov. 20). My local *Book & World* has extensive selections of fairly prominent and less well-known Canadian and international authors. Most of these are affordably priced (no, not on the remainder table) and without fail, in contrast, my previous Canadian bookstore seemed to promote nothing but popular American best-sellers. Perhaps the issue is what the buyer is interested in reading, not the citizenship of the author or bookseller.

Kate Kluge,  
Allentown, Penn.



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## LETTERS

Quebec: I have lived in Alberta, British  
Columbia, Ontario and now Saskatchewan,  
and I have never encountered any significant  
number of people who hate bilingualism or  
the people of Quebec. I think Solman's com-  
ments just underline the need for single-  
phones and transphones to try to make  
more effort to communicate with each other.  
Jacqueline Barnes,  
Regina

Jean-Claude Solman may be a coward, but  
how dare he say that he represents a major-  
ity? And how dare he say that bilingualism  
does not work? As a French-Canadian  
teaching in Alberta, I can see firsthand  
that the rest of Canada does not hate or  
mistreat Quebecers and that they are  
willing to learn about the French lan-  
guage and culture. What the rest of  
Canada resents is that Quebec politi-  
cians are not willing to sit down to try to  
reach a compromise. Had I been able,  
I would have voted No because I love  
this great country of mine.  
Clement Martin,  
Medicine Hat, Alta.

## Jobless recovery

These days, I read many articles  
such as "Hopes on the rise"  
(Business, Nov. 13) that reflect the  
optimism of the Canadian economy. Yet there is  
something wrong with this picture. If  
we are one of the richest countries in  
the world, why is it that about one in 10  
Canadian cannot find work? We are  
told that with our technology, the global  
economy, free trade and democracy,  
this is inevitable. Perhaps it is, but this  
shows that by adopting these devices  
we have failed as a nation. Surely the tech-  
nology that has created the marvels of  
technology could have found a better way,  
one that did not result in young people  
marching the streets without a hope of a job.

G. V. Eckhardt,  
Saskatoon, S.C.

## Over the Moon

I am a reader in the gold mines of Northern  
Ontario, and I am also a member of the  
United Church. As a husband and father  
of three, I have found that the teachings of  
Rev. Sun Myung Moon and the divine prin-  
ciple set a very high standard by which I  
should strive to live. Concerning your article  
"Ed Scheer and the Moonies," (Nov. 23), I  
know that anyone who sincerely re-

searches the teachings of the divine prin-  
ciple will see the fallacies you have pointed  
out for what they are.

Robert Tashers,  
South Porcupine, Ont.

My brother and his Korean wife have been  
Moons for more than 30 years. It is heart-  
breaking to see them struggling to get  
through each day because of their depen-  
dencies on someone else to make decisions  
for them. Sun Myung Moon and his wife are  
a curse on civilization. When will North  
Americans wake up and realize we have lost  
thousands of valued family members to dy-  
functional cults?

Conner Sadler,  
Chatham, Ont.



Toronto Stock Exchange: without a hope

## Salt and pewter

I enjoyed reading "Teaching the price,"  
(Deadline, Paganish, N.S., Oct. 23) on  
Paganish and his association with the 1990  
Noted Peace Prize. There is, however, an er-  
ror. The salt mine is not its "main employer."  
While much of Canada's table salt comes  
from Paganish, all of the world's SeaSalt  
Pewter products are designed, crafted in  
and marketed from Cumberland County.

Merna J. Hwang,  
Amherst, N.S.

Maclean's columnist received a letter from a man who  
wanted to know if he could use the name of the author  
and his book in his business. The author of the book  
is Ed Scheer and his book is "The Divine Principle."  
The author of the book is Ed Scheer and his book is  
"The Divine Principle." The author of the book is  
Ed Scheer and his book is "The Divine Principle."

## algarve

Once upon a time a  
beautiful princess from  
Northern Europe fell in  
love with a Moorish king.  
They married and went to  
live in his castle in the  
Algarve, but in the warm,  
sunny winter months, the  
new queen pined for the  
snow of her homeland, so  
the king planted almond  
trees as far as the eye  
could see. In February, he  
led her to the castle walls  
where she saw almond  
blossoms like drifts of  
snow, and petals falling  
softly to the ground like  
snowflakes. The queen  
was overjoyed, and they  
both lived happily ever  
after.

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change of scene to uplift  
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culture and cuisine,  
together with miles of  
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The almond trees still  
blossom like snow, and  
the almonds themselves  
are used to flavour  
delicious regional  
desserts that are truly fit  
for a king.

And his queen,  
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## algarve

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## LETTERS

### Seeing things

So, many people saw the face of Jesus in the Eagle Nebula photo ("Newborn stars," World Notes, Nov. 13). The ability of the human mind to take ambiguous data and force it into pictures, which exist only in that mind, is truly amazing. Does this mean the churches will find space research so that people can make pilgrimages to the Eagle Nebula?

Greg Brown  
Arlington, Va. 22201

### Brass tacks

You estimate Frank Sinatra biographer Will Friedwald for "his apparent inability to appreciate any music composed after 1955," but you refer to trumpeter Barry Jones as a "brasshead" ("He did it his way," Books, Nov. 30). What did John Lennon play, boss?

Terry Golden  
North York, Ont. 2E1

### Facing the music

Your excellent editorial "Men in suits, beware" (Nov. 10) is right on the mark in suggesting that the future of the country is too important to be left solely in the hands of the politicians. But the people of Canada must react more quickly. Questioners, hearing the old rhetoric from politicians, newspaper columnists and letters to the editor, are already saying that the values they heard before the war are now playing out of tune.

Clare Lewis  
Barnes, Ont.

### Honorable mention

I nominate Mr. J. N. Roger Cyr of Ottawa to be included in the Hall of Fame of Canadians. Currently the national president of the Hong Kong's Veterans Association, Cyr is an independence prisoner of war, having been captured with hundreds of his fellow Canadians in December, 1941. He has worked tirelessly and unconditionally in the service of his fellow veterans to raise the consciousness of all Canadians of a long neglected chapter in Canadian military history, namely the Battle of Hong Kong. Most recently, he was a key player in the many celebrations in Canada of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Rita Terrence Cyr  
Lawrenceville, Kan.

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What Matters to Canadians

## ANOTHER VIEW



## Forget idealism—it is much too expensive

BY CHARLES GORDON

Here's some pro-reform wisdom: "There are still places in Canada, and particularly in Quebec province, where... people live unhealthily hardening lives without the progress and luxury that so often accompanies life in new settlements. Ontario has much to learn from Quebec."

Arthur Lismer, one of Canada's most celebrated artists, made that statement, a verbal reminder of the social relevance of art. It is displayed in the National Gallery of Canada, beside a visual reminder, his painting *Quebec Village*, part of the current exhibit at Group of Seven paintings. The exhibition, called *Art for a Nation* (also the title of an excellent companion book by Charles Hill), is worth seeing, as a portrait of the way the country was, the way the country still is, if we only take the trouble to look at it, in it, to, in a poignant way, a portrait of the way the country could be.

Various quotations from artists and writers about art accompany the exhibition. Here, from Hill's book, is one, from Herman Vanden, a dramatist and founder of the Group of Seven, in the December, 1938, edition of *Canadian Forum*: "Canada is probably on the eve of a great renaissance in her art and literature. She is emboldened by the past. She looks only to the future. With untold wealth, power and resources, she is ready to create a new and important culture. All this has been there before, in prose and poetry, music, painting and sculpture. It is only a preparation for what is to come."

There is something about reading that today—not because it was false, it can be argued that an important culture has in fact been created. The reason it is sad to read those 1938 words about Canada's being on the eve of a great renaissance in art and literature is that it is painfully obvious that no one would say such words today.

Idealism, like so much else today, has become something we can't afford. And if ideal-

ism is too costly, a renaissance would be out of the question. "First, get the debt under control," someone important would say. "A renaissance can wait."

The Art for a Nation exhibition re-creates some of the Group's early shows, going back to the beginning of the '30s. Not all of them were successful. But the visitors, noting the inscriptions under the paintings, is struck by how many of them were purchased by the National Gallery, and how early Lismer was aware of this. In 1938, he wrote: "Were it not for the kindly offices of a very few interested people who impress the government with the necessity of providing assistance to Canadian art by the occasional purchase of a picture from one of the annual shows, Canadian art would inevitably go under, or succumb to the popular forms of picture-making, usually known as 'potboilers'."

The purchase of those paintings was a risk-taking one we can only hope will be allowed to continue. But to continue, it needs political support. The art we need support, both public and private. Every sign, including last week's Ontario financial statement, points to such support becoming a thing of the past.

The National Gallery itself is a kind of risk-taking, a spectacular one and, in a way, as outlined in a quotation from 1939: "Walking around the magnificent building, peering through its glass walls across the Ottawa River to the equally spectacular Museum of Civilization, the visitor is struck by another depressing thought: neither of these could be built now. If the people running Canada now had been running Canada only 15 years ago, there would be no National Gallery, no Museum of Civilization."

Take the same mentality back a few years to the burst of construction at the time of Canada's centennial and it becomes apparent that not only would we not have any museums with today's crowd in charge, we would have no museums and hockey rinks either. The fearful, debt-worshipping thinkers who dominate today's politics would not allow a museum to be built, unless it was done by a corporation. No corporation would build the museum, although one might take over a museum if it were built by another corporation.

It would be pernicious, in today's climate, for a museum to be built by volunteers—except that volunteers are too busy filling in for the teachers, nurses and librarians who are no longer working.

This brings up one of the other reasons—other than sheer dogmatism, that is—why it is difficult to defend public spending on the arts these days. Life is difficult for other people too, so there is power to what they like to call tough decisions. None that the tough decisions are never tough on the people who take them. It is that as it may, people are having difficulty buying groceries. University students are having a tough time coming up with tuition. Many people are jobless, some are homeless. In the face of that, the request for more funds for book publishing and live theatre, for example, seems a little chancy.

"You want money for that when people are going hungry?" shout the cry, and there isn't an effective answer other than the well-known: "Man cannot live by bread alone."

Setting one disadvantage against another, making cuts to culture appear preferable to cuts to other groups such as a classmate piece of drink and ride that you wonder whether those running the show are serious enough to have done it all purpose. You almost wish they were.

What hope, at the end of 1995, for the Great Canadian Renaissance? We don't lack for artists. In some areas, such as literature, we have far more resources than other weeks, writers that are 70 years ago or even 20. What we don't have is a destiny. What we don't have is a favorable environment.

Had the Group of Seven been around today, they would have become, after tough decisions were made, the Group of Five, with the possibility of further reductions in the future. For the information of those who want to see the Art for a Nation exhibition, the National Gallery is now closed every Monday and Tuesday.

# CHRETIEEN'S UNITY GAMBIT

In a bold manoeuvre, the Prime Minister upsets the constitutional playing field

As in the best of elaborately choreographed manoeuvres, it was, on the surface, disarmingly simple. With one sweep last week, Prime Minister Jean Chretien cleared three decades of clutter off the constitutional table to make room for a different game to formally recognize Quebec as a distinct society, with its own writ, by Christmas. (But like any polite host, Chretien had to first warn a select list about the impending upset. On Sunday, Nov. 20, Chretien telephoned nine provincial premiers (all but Quebec's Jacques Parizeau) to tell them of the majority Liberal government's intention to launch constitutional niceties and introduce federal legisla-

tion designed to meet Quebec's long constitutional demands for more moderate nationalists back to the federalist cause. There was no request for advice and certainly no room for debate. "He outlined to me what he was going to be tabling in Parliament," B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt told Merleau. But, added Harcourt, "it was more of a courtesy call than a dialogue."

Throughout the interminable constitutional debate that has plagued Canadian politics—culminating in the Oct. 30 Quebec referendum vote that very nearly led to the breaking of the country—agreement has never been easily reached. In a bold resolution introduced in the House of Commons last Wednesday, the government abruptly switched conventional direction with its administrative framework to unilaterally accomplish what years of haggling had failed to achieve. In addition to legislation that would recognize Quebec as a distinct society within Canada, Ottawa also offered to lead its sole vote on constitutional matters to four regional, Quebec, Ontario, the Atlantic provinces and the West. And the federal government proposed shifting control of labor-market training to the provinces. Chretien was adamant that the measures were necessary to rebuild the country and promote "change without revolution, progress without rupture."

## Bouchard mocked the PM as being out of touch

Leader Lucien Bouchard denounced the promise as a "totally anachronistic and ridiculous" tactic that offers Quebecers substantially less than the failed 1990 Meech Lake second province to endorse distinct society in the Constitution. Speaking from his headquarters, Bouchard mocked Chretien's outdated vision of Quebec as "one of many chicks nicely arranged around the federal mother hen." Before Leader Premier Manning echoed complaints from British Columbia and Alberta—where protesters objected to being lumped into the western region for purposes of a constitutional veto and re-



Chretien says of the discussion was in federal ranks

## 'It is easier to destroy than to build'

presented concerns about the extent of powers to be granted to Quebec as a distinct society (page 38). "It's the same old problem," he told Merleau. "They picked the two things for which there isn't a lot of support outside Quebec and built their package around that. They're trying to address the concerns of one part of the country without taking into account the concerns of the rest." And, Manning added, "They seem to be making this up as they go along. There is no long-term strategy. They may have thought they could get this over with and get on with other things. Clearly that isn't the way it's going to go."

Perhaps conscious of the rumor that accompanies the opening of the constitutional Pandora's box, most premiers were decidedly more circumspect. As New Brunswick's Frank McKenna noted, the refusal of Bouchard, the long-opponent to returning Paris Quebecer Premier Jacques Parizeau, to participate in constitutional negotiations limited the options open to federalists. "I don't think this will end up resolving all the problems," McKenna told Merleau. "But it is a very good down payment on it." Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon concurred with that sentiment. "I think it's important for them to show some movement and to attempt to appeal to Quebecers," said Filmon. "At the same time, I think it's important for them to take action on issues that are significant to people right across Canada."

The Liberal majority of 177 MPs virtually guarantees rapid passage of the early legislation through Parliament. But last week, reports were already circulating the legislature and political wisdom of circumventing traditional avenues of constitutional reform:

"What Parliament makes today, Parliament can undo at a later date," warned University of Calgary political scientist Frederick Mottus, who further argued that transferring federal veto rights violates the constitutional amending process.

Legal or not, Ottawa's unilateral concessions to Quebec would significantly alter the constitutional playing field. The western provinces, to begin with, will have to abandon, for the time being, the region's long-standing demand for an elected, equal and effective Senate—a proposed reform that has never found much favor in Quebec. Similarly, the entrenchment of the right to self-government that aboriginal people have long sought appears to have been shunted to the sidelines.

In past negotiations, particularly talks leading up to the doomed 1987 Charlottetown accord that provided for provincial vetoes, an elected Senate and a reformed self-government, many interest groups used the issue of a veto for Quebec as a handy bargaining chip in their fight for their own demands. By giving it away for free, said University of Calgary political scientist Roger Gibbons, "Thirty years of Western thinking about constitutional reform has just been thrown in the trash can."

But in politics, giving is half the battle. Federalists in Quebec and Ottawa consider the initiative as continuing pressure on the separatist forces during the transition between Parizeau and his long-opponent, Bouchard, who is expected to take over as PQ leader and premier of Quebec in late January. In fact, senior Ottawa Liberals told Manning that Chretien feared his announcement of the early resolution to follow a Quebec Liberal meeting on Nov. 25. Premier Robert Bourassa had just announced 600 party members in a caucus in Montreal to rebuke his party's long-standing demand to entrench the concept of Quebec's "special status" as well as restore the province's constitutional veto. "In the weeks and months to come," Johnson told the Liberal gathering, "provinces that will put us on the path of change must be made in the rest of Canada." Still, a senior Liberal adviser admitted, "They know what we were doing: we knew what they were going to do. Johnson has to say things, too." Indeed, Westmonte Liberal MP Jacques Chagnon, a member of Johnson's inner circle of advisers, declared, "Finally, we were all a little skeptical that Chretien would be able, or even willing, to make a deal. It was one of the reasons why we wanted to establish our own position."

In fact, Ottawa was preoccupied in part with the package as early as a week after the referendum vote on Oct. 30. Indeed, Chretien wanted until a non-member cabinet committee on national unity, headed by intergovernmental Affairs Minister Marcel Massé, delivered its interim report and a list of options on Nov. 14, a day after the Prime Minister returned from a trip to the Asia-Pacific region. Privately, Liberal strategists worried that public criticism for overlooking the deep Quebec in Canada was warranted. "One of the reasons that we are afraid in favor of moving reasonably quickly is that the longer you're gone from that near-death experience, the less the sense of urgency," Massé told Merleau. "At present, we think that most Canadians remember how close we were."

By midweek, Chretien had week ended the possibility of swift that parliament's Committee on the 12th hour of the referendum campaign, illustrated by the unimpressive rally in Montreal three



Bouchard: rejecting 'the federal mother hen'

days before the referendum vote, attended by thousands of people from outside Quebec. Recalling the promises of change he made to Quebecers—but neglecting to mention the deprecation in the federalist cause that prompted them—Chrétien called on Canadians to rally behind his government's proposals. "It is easier to attack than work together. It is easier to shout than to listen. It is easier to destroy than to build. It is easier to yell, but it is wrong," he told the crowd. "For ourselves, for our children, for our country, the shouters and destroyers have had their say." Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps spoke in kind, telling the Commons that "the heart of Canada is Quebec." Else were choked with emotion and approval by the rest of the team, Copps added that Canada without Quebec would be "only an empty shell." Unsmiling, Bloc MP Michel Bellemare told Copps that she should have shed her tears when her leader had led the March 24 constitutional debate in 1990. He added, "Today, her tears are a little too late—and the only ones responsible are herself and her government."

Such emotional displays aside, the cold reality is that Chrétien's unity proposals also sparkled disunion within his own Liberal caucus. Told of the proposed federal legislation only hours before it was made public, disgruntled Liberal backbenchers faulted their disappointment over the lack of consultation, Chrétien's apparent plan to advance and some cabinet members' ability to offer a separate veto to British Columbia, the largest western province, with a population of 3.6 million. Indeed, he opted for the fast-track model that he generated when he presented before Quebec's commission on the province's political and constitutional future in December, 1990. During that same hearing, Chrétien, then the federal Opposition leader, publicly opposed the federalist society for Quebec, a constitutional status he then objected to because he believed it would override the Charter of Rights.

Ironically, despite almost two decades of constitutional experience, Chrétien, unpopular in his own province, is perhaps the Liberal government's weakest link in its efforts to cobble together political and economic reform that appeals to Quebec separatists and federalist alike. In fact, in the wake of his spirited defence of the federal package last week, Chrétien indulged in an almost beautiful display of self-consciousness. "I disrespected the people," he repeated on several occasions. It was a claim that is far from realistic.

BY KAYE PULTON with LUKAS PROKOP in Ottawa, JOHN DEMOVY in Quebec, SUZANNE CAMS in Montreal, MURRAY NEMETH in Calgary and JOHN PAPER in Vancouver

## THUMBS DOWN IN THE WEST

As much as anyone, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein seemed to suit up the reaction in Canada's two westernmost provinces to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's latest national unity gambit. "This is crap," said Klein, "all over again." Among many westerners, there was resentment, bitterness and outright anger that Chrétien had reached back to an aborted 24-year-old accord—the so-called Victoria Formula of 1971—to give effective vetoes over future constitutional changes to four regions: Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario and the

three other western provinces. Chrétien tried to contain the damage by arguing that since British Columbia comprises 50 per cent of the West's population—something Statistics Canada predicts will not happen for at least another two decades—it will have an effective veto within the region. But Chrétien did not help his cause by repeatedly overestimating British Columbia's current share of the region's population (he kept saying 47 per cent) and by suggesting that, if only the province would abandon its proposed three-month residency requirement for further proposals,

it could quickly achieve the magic 50-percent mark. In an interview with *Maclean's* last week, B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt scoffed at Chrétien for what the premier called an "ass-backwards" approach to national unity. Added Harcourt: "I think this has been handled very badly."

In its most extreme form, the resistance in Western Canada recalled the bad old days of the early 1980s when the western separatist movement made gains in response to the widely despised National Energy Program. On his popular Vancouver open-line radio show, host Ryle Muir declared: "I don't think there is any hope any more for British Columbia within the Canadian federation"—a sentiment echoed by some of his callers. Even University of Calgary political scientist Roger Gibbons, normally a voice of moderation on such matters, said that his faith in federalism had been newly tested by Chrétien's proposals, which he argued would effectively kill Western initiatives such as Senate reform. "I'm uneasy with the western separatist label," Gibbons told *Maclean's*, "but I really feel that this action has broken my faith in the national government."

In the other two western provinces, the response was much more muted. Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon said that the proposed veto was solely a federal matter while Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow actually publicly thanked Chrétien for "the highest effort by any honest individual to try to keep this great country together." It was a rare moment of praise for a Prime Minister in a week when he had more than his share of critics in Western Canada.

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BRAND BERGMAN with MARY PETER in Vancouver and JOHN PAPER in Newsworld



Harcourt, Klein (right) singer and musician over being rebuffed by "ass-backwards" accord

West. As Klein and many other critics pointed out, Canada has changed greatly over the past quarter century—and nowhere more so than in British Columbia and Alberta, where a period of sustained prosperity and population growth has fostered a determination to never again let Central Canada dictate the terms of Confederation. Declined Klein, of Ottawa's latest initiative: "This does nothing but give first-class status to 10 provinces—Ontario and Quebec—and relegating the other provinces to second-class status."

While Klein also expressed concerns that Chrétien's plans to recognize Quebec as a distinct society could lead to another type of special status for the province, it was the proposed amending formula that drew most of the western ire. And in British Columbia—Canada's third-largest and fastest-growing province—it was the sheer arbitrariness that proved offensive. With 3.6 million people, the province boasts about 43 per cent of the West's population. Yet under Ottawa's formula, British Columbia alone could not block a constitutional change favored by



Have you ever seen a grown man cry?

# Cutting back to the bone

**Ontario's Tories slash \$6.3 billion from spending plans**

**D**ouglas Horne is a living example of the glowering spirit of Ontario's resource economy. While most of the province's larger mining companies long ago abandoned their home base to spend millions of dollars developing properties in far-away places like South America, Horne's company stuck it out and survived as one of the few players in the high-risk game of mineral exploration in Ontario. It has done so with considerable help from the provincial government. In the past two years, Horne's Toronto-based Nalco Resources Ltd. received \$300,000 worth of provincial grants to explore and develop deposits—funds that played a role in a major nickel discovery earlier this year near Ramore River in far western Ontario. But that kind of support is about to run out. Last week, Ontario Finance Minister Ernie Eves unveiled a mini-budget with sweeping cuts, including the end of \$200 million in what he called "handouts to business"—and the programs that delivered Horne's grants. "Just pulling the plug on this and saying goodbye is not in the best interests of the province," declared Horne. "The end is almost nigh for mining exploration in Ontario."

While it may seem odd for a businessman to criticize austerity measures by a Conservative government, equally unusual was the size and scope of Eves's cost-cutting program. The financial statement, which slashed \$6.3 billion from the province's 1996 billion budget over three years, is the boldest move yet by Ontario's Conservative government, and one of the largest single deficit-reduction programs in the country. It will affect daily life from Keweenaw to Cornwall, from raising the cost for a community hockey team to rent the local rink, to reducing hospital facilities and the number of grants available to poets and filmmakers.

The measures stem from the campaign platform that swept the Tories into office on June 8. They hammered away at three key themes: reducing provincial welfare benefits; cutting personal income taxes by 30 per cent, or by \$4 billion; and balancing the budget by eliminating \$6 billion in government spending.

That last figure has expanded because the province's deficit turned out to be



Eves presents financial statement and Harris opposes: the boldest move yet

higher than expected last week's spending reductions were in addition to \$1.9 billion Eves already slashed in June—including a 21.6-per-cent cut in provincial welfare rates. The 40-year-old finance minister, a lawyer from Harry Seard who is Premier Mike Harris's closest friend in the government, unveiled last week that he would balance Ontario's budget by the fiscal year 2000-2001. But he did so without taking into account the loss of government revenue from the promised 30-per-cent cut in provincial income tax rates, now estimated as high as \$5 billion. While Eves said the timing of the tax cut will be announced in next spring's full budget, he made it clear that that measure, along with balancing the budget, was central to the government's plan for stimulating Canada's largest provincial economy. "There is no issue more important to this government than job creation," Eves told reporters.

But last week's plan will do little for the unemployed in the near future. The government's own forecasts predict that Ontario's unemployment rate will remain high, dipping slightly to 8.6 per cent in 1997 from the current 8.9-per-cent rate. Opposition leaders seized on that point, but reserved most of their scorn for cuts to health care. The Tory mini-budget mandates a 28-per-cent reduction over the next two years to the \$7.2 billion that the province's 219 hospitals currently receive, a move that health-care officials say will force dozens of hospitals to merge or close. As well, the document introduces a new fee similar to those in existence in other provinces for the Ontario Drug Benefit plan, which, up to now, had offered free prescription drugs to senior citizens and welfare recipients. That appears to violate Harris's campaign promise not to touch health care, which prompted Liberal Leader Lyn McLeod to call the premier "a

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**PHILIPS**

lar" several times last week.

Blue seniors whose annual family income is greater than \$30,000 will have to pay an annual \$100 deductible for their drugs, a fee of \$2 for each prescription as well as the pharmacist's dispensing fee, which is normally about 95¢. It's pretty heavy stuff for some people," said pharmacist Claudio Casale, who dispenses drugs in a working-class neighborhood of Saint-Sauveur. "I have some customers who will be paying \$300 to \$400 more out of their pocket each year."

There also announced that the province will reduce funding to municipalities from the current \$2.25 billion to \$206 million over the next two years, and allow local governments to charge user fees for everything from library services to garbage pickup. Peter Robertson, mayor of fast-growing city of Simsbury, says that his jurisdiction will make cuts only by doing things like raising rental fees for ice rinks and lowering the voltage of bulbs used in traffic lights. "We've been cutting for four years because the provincial government keeps passing their bills to us," complains Robertson.

Public school boards and postsecondary institutions will lose \$600 million in funding next year, much of which the government says can be offset by cutting administrative costs. The formula means that the University of Toronto alone will lose up to \$40 million in funds. But universities will now be allowed to raise tuition fees by up to 30 per cent, and community colleges, 15 per cent.

Cutback developers will be permitted in Niagara Falls, and the government will hold a public-wide referendum on whether casino should be built elsewhere.

At the same time, Ross took a whack at cultural institutions, slashing provincial support for museums, art galleries and the \$24-million Ontario Arts Council, an agency that distributes grants to writers, filmmakers, dancers and other artists. Some senior observers actually expected the Tories to go further and eliminate the council entirely, as well as the ministry of culture, culture and recreation, whose current budget is \$485 million. That the government failed to do so was small solace to the 32 employees at CIFT FM, a major radio station in Toronto that offers a mix of classical and jazz programming alongside university courses in topics such as international relations and management, through a division called Open College. Even announced that CIFT, which is the only radio outlet in North America that produces and broadcasts astronomy credit courses,

would lose its entire \$1.3-million provincial subsidy, 40 per cent of the station's operating budget. While managers were dismayed by the cut, they vowed to keep the station running beyond next year by appealing to listeners for donations.

Joining the radio station seemed even more painful given that the Tories left a much larger provincially funded media organization, uncutback TVO, a Crown-owned

like last week's cuts out of the way first. If the government can get a good price for TVO, the network will pass on any of those Crown assets as the nation bleeds. The Tories are anxious to generate profits from privatization so they can offset the revenues lost because of the promised tax cut. If the Conservatives fail to sell off significant assets, they will be forced to impose a beleaguered Ontario public to further cuts.

in government services in order to keep the tax-cut promise and maintain the commitment to balance the budget.

Already, the government's actions on other fronts have provoked a wide array of groups. Last month, the Tories angered unions when they introduced legislation regarding an 800-hour law that limited the hiring of replacement workers during strikes and strengthened worker rights. Days later, the government provoked teachers' organizations by announcing that it would end rent control in the province next year, and make it easier for landlords to evict renters. As Harris and his colleagues have attended more and more

groups, the Queen's Park legislature has become the scene of almost weekly protests.

But one recent demonstration left many Tories amazed, rather than scorned. Five days before David's no-budget, thousands of day-care workers, parents and children descended on Queen's Park waving placards with slogans like "Make Harris pick up someone's year on day care." They said they were there to protest planned Tory cuts to the \$200 million the province spends on annual day care subsidies. They [the Tories] won't get away with it," New Democrat MP Marilyn Charley declared at the rally. The money is that on cuts were earlier discussion at the time by the Harris government, not were any announced last week. "We're sorry if we've disappointed the people who were expecting those cuts," Harris remarked wryly in response to the day of his mini-budget. Later, a bemused senior Tory said, "These people get themselves worked up, screaming and yelling on the front steps of Queen's Park, for nothing. They've been doing the best Chicken Little imitation of anyone, and the sky has not fallen." While the sky did not fall for the day care sector, it may still fall for some Ontarians when hospitals, schools and other social service agencies to say as they grapple with the full impact of the Harris government's crusade to cut spending.

PAUL KADILA



Anti-fury demonstrators at Ontario's legislature: weekly protest

television network with a staff of 440 people, consumes \$28 million in provincial funds annually, and has long been the subject of complaints among Tories that its programming reflects the concerns of downtown Toronto's chattering classes rather than those of the province as a whole. "With CFT it was just a matter of not sending a cheque," explained a senior Conservative official. "But we own TVO and we have union agreements that prove it as fees putting it on the chopping block."

The Tory official added that the government's strategy is to deal with TVO next fall, after getting more environmental measures

## THE DEBT PICTURE

Per capita provincial debt, 1995-1996

BRITISH COLUMBIA	\$5,200
MANITOBA	6,100
P.E.I.	7,100
NEW BRUNSWICK	7,200
ALBERTA	7,500
SASKATCHEWAN	8,400
NOVA SCOTIA	8,800
ONTARIO	8,800
QUEBEC	10,600
NEWFOUNDLAND	10,600

Source: 1995 provincial budgets and updates  
Ontario: Ministry of Finance



Photo: The Star/Chris Kelly

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## A bridge too far

*The Liberals' UI reforms draw fire from all sides*

**T**hroughout its long and turbulent history, Canada's 54-year-old unemployment insurance program has served many masters. For those without a job, it has been a bridge until back, or disconnection, changed. For campaigning politicians—including Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who in 1989 pledged to preserve Canada's social safety net as "the backbone of fundamental fairness and decency"—it has been a powerful vote-getter. Uncomfortably hitched to Ottawa's package of annual unity proposals, unemployment insurance—in yet another guise—last week evolved into the latest tool to get people back to work. "These days, Canadians need more than just income support," Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy told the House of Commons. "They need a new bridge, a new design to meet a very different workplace, to give people a new sense of security that when jobs change, there's a chance to change with it."

The package that Axworthy presented to Parliament last Friday was sparse and practical—and immediately ran into fierce criticism. The long-awaited overhaul of the \$16-billion-a-year program was supposed to drastically change the way the system works. To begin with, Axworthy symbolically changed its name from unemployment insurance to simply employment insurance. But by any name, the left-wing line for Canadians who lose their jobs is that they will have to work longer to receive longer benefits over a shorter period of time. With a cut of \$2 billion to the UI budget—on top of a \$7-billion reduction imposed by the Liberals in the 1994 federal budget—critics argue that Ottawa is in effect pushing the unemployed onto the welfare rolls. To social activists, that means another three stepped from the country's social safety net. Said Nancy Rich, executive vice-president at the Canadian Labour Congress: "This piece of legislation is taking millions from the pockets of workers and putting them into the pockets of big business."

At the heart of the overhaul is the rapidly changing face of the unemployed. Union officials



*A job queue in Ottawa: working longer for fewer benefits*

said again that companies are laid-off to create new positions—or hold on to old ones—in an era of cutbacks. And when they do, they are swamped with applications. In Ottawa, for example, managers of the new Palladium hockey arena were astonished to find November when more than 3,000 people, including university graduates and out of work public servants, lined up overnight to apply for 1,000 part-time jobs paying just \$5 an hour. Said Rich: "The disincentive to work is not unemployment insurance. The disincentive is the lack of jobs."

Among Axworthy's key changes

• Dates the scheme is fully implemented by 2001, the maximum benefit will drop from \$485 a week now to \$412.50. As well, coverage will be for only 51 weeks, five weeks less than under the current system.

• As of Jan. 1, benefits will be based on the number of hours, rather than weeks worked, with most hours needed to qualify as regions where unemployment is relatively low (such as southern Ontario and British Columbia). As a result, for the first time an estimated 500,000 part-time workers will be eligible for benefits—and will be required to pay employment insurance premiums.

But, starting on July 1, those entering the workforce for the first time will need to work 516 hours, or about six months, to meet the eligibility requirements. That is about six weeks longer than they must work now to qualify.

• Benefits will drop for those who use the insurance system frequently—a particular concern for seasonal workers. Payments will be cut by 1 per cent each time a person files a claim over a five-year period, to a maximum reduction of nine per cent. The most that such a person could collect would be \$375 a week.

• People with children or relatively low family incomes of less than \$25,021 a year, however, will get some added benefits. A new Family Supplement could increase their UI benefits by as much as 7 per cent. Low-income claimants may also earn an extra \$20 a week, or 35 per cent of their benefit if that is higher, without losing money from their benefit cheques.

Sharply held differences marked Axworthy's 15-month exercise from the start. Caught between the Liberal deficit-reduction agenda and pressure from both labor and business to bring UI into line with a changing market, Axworthy kept a low—but lively—the battle to incorporate the system into a far-reaching overhaul of the entire social security network. The 35-member

Atlantic Liberal caucus, which met 20 times with the minister, waged a fierce campaign against the plan that affected seasonal workers. After meeting with his fellow members at Parliament again on Friday to discuss the changes, Newfoundland MP Fred Millin told Marston that although Axworthy had softened his position, the reforms effectively create a two-tier system of seasonal and non-seasonal workers. "It shows a serious bias against the Atlantic region," said Millin. "Still, I'm greatly encouraged compared to what was contemplated 10 months ago." That cautious support from a fellow Liberal underlined the size of the task Axworthy faces as he tries to sell his reforms to a skeptical public.

R. KAYE PULLEN in Ottawa

# Out of the shadows

*A Swiss is the mystery source in the Airbus scandal*

My father has been very stressed," Michael Pelosi, a law student in Zurich, Switzerland, and last week. "He talks about the case all the time." No wonder: Pelosi's father, Giorgio, the mystery man at the heart of the Airbus scandal, is the only person from the shadows last week to state publicly what he has been saying privately to a handful of police investigators and journalists for the past year: Sailing and relaxing, the silver-haired 57-year-old accountant acknowledged that he was a key source for the allegation that former prime minister Brian Mulroney might have accepted millions of dollars in bribes in connection with the \$1.6-billion sale of Airbus passenger planes to Air Canada between 1988 and 1991. Pelosi said he was present in 1986 when his former partner, Munich businessman Karlheinz Schreiber, and Ottawa lobbyist Frank Moore opened two bank accounts at a Zurich branch of the Swiss Bank Corp. One account was for Moore, and Pelosi, while the second was jointly co-owned "Dewar." According to Pelosi, Schreiber told him that the Dewar account was for Mulroney.

After the allegation first surfaced on Nov. 18, Mulroney strongly denied it, as did the federal government and the RCMP for libel in an unspecified *Edmonton Journal*. He maintains that the *Montreal* formal request for help from the Swiss government in the Airbus affair, naming him as a conspirator in a bribery plot, has done irreparable damage to his international reputation as a lawyer and businessman. And to that, Pelosi acknowledged in a TV interview last week that he had no proof that the Dewar account actually belonged to Mulroney, or that any money from Airbus or other deals was ever paid into it. As well, in an interview with the *Toronto Star* Sunday Star, Schreiber said that the RCMP allegations were "totally untrue" and that the former prime minister was "totally innocent." As for Pelosi, Canadians caught their first glimpse of him last March when, his face hidden in shadow, he told viewers of the CBC television program the 48th state how millions of dollars flowed from Airbus Industrie into a Luxembourg bank account controlled by Schreiber, his

business partner from 1986 to 1991, when they had a serious business disagreement. To back up his statements, Pelosi has produced a mass of documents to show how three European companies—Airbus, Munich-based Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blöhm, and Elysian AG, also based in Munich—transferred millions of dollars in commissions on Canadian government contracts to Schreiber's



Mulroney in Montreal after launching lawsuit. Pelosi (top): allegations of bribery and secret bank accounts

Luxembourg holding company, International Aircraft Leasing Ltd. The documents showed that Schreiber drew up a contract with Airbus in 1985 to receive \$620,000 for each A-320 passenger plane sold to Air Canada, and that Airbus paid at least \$11 million between 1988 and 1991. Pelosi, who ran SAL for Schreiber for a decade, is suing his former partner for a share of the commission money.

In an interview with *Maclean's* last week,

Pelosi said that a few years after he and Schreiber became partners in 1989, Schreiber moved to Calgary to set up companies for wealthy German investors eager for a piece of Alberta's burgeoning oil wealth. Although Pelosi joined Schreiber in Calgary in the early 1980s to work on various deals for two years, he never settled in Canada because his work frequently took him back to Europe. Alberta corporate records show Pelosi and Schreiber listed as directors of a company called MLE Industries Ltd., or Maple Leaf Enterprises, one of MLE's shareholders was Miss Josef Strauss, the son of the late Austrian premier Franz Josef Strauss—who was also the chairman of Airbus Industrie at the time the Air Canada deal was negotiated. The elder Strauss was preoccupied with establishing a North American foothold for the new Airbus passenger plane, and Schreiber became a representative in Canada. Miss Strauss, who died in 1988, the mastermind behind the rich agreement between Airbus and MLE. "That's difficult to say," Pelosi said cautiously. "But he certainly helped."

Editor he wrote out publicly last week, Pelosi's identity was disclosed in the media by Mulroney's lawyers, who also told reporters that the Swiss whistle-blower was a mere underling in Schreiber's empire and that he had done time in a Swiss prison. According to Pelosi, he was lately accused of embezzlement 10 years ago and, in accordance with Swiss practice, spent the six-month period of the investigation in custody. He was then released without any charges laid. Last week Pelosi, relieved to be out in the open, said he had expected the attacks. "It doesn't matter," he told *Maclean's*. "What I said is true and what I said I can prove. I have nothing to fear." He said he expected to be interviewed within a few days by Swiss authorities, who are helping the RCMP in the Airbus investigation. His testimony will be crucial to the *Montreal* case against Mulroney.

Mulroney faced other problems last week, as well. RCMP officials confirmed that they are also looking into his conduct on another case to see whether he improperly used his influence as prime minister to help Toronto's former John Dineen Sr., one of the federal Tories' top lobbyists, win a lucrative lease extension for the hotel concessions at Toronto's Pearson International Airport in 1988. In 1991, the justice department won a \$22.7-million lawsuit against Dineen for failing to pay rent for the concessions. Both Dineen and Mulroney have denied that they did anything improper.

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# Canada NOTES

## The legacy of a brutal death

Entitled "Matthew's Life, Matthew's Legacy," the 663 page report by British Columbia provincial court Justice Thomas Gove provided a chilling account of how five-year-old Matthew Vadwood died brutally at the hands of his own mother while the province's child protection system turned a blind eye to his plight. The provincial government had asked Gove to inquire into the 1993 death of Matthew, who had been starved, beaten and tortured before finally being smothered to death by his 26-year-old mentally retarded mother, Vera Vadwood, despite numerous warnings to social workers that he should be taken away from her (Vadwood is serving a four-year sentence for manslaughter). Even more damning, Gove found that the case was being an isolated incident: 264 children in government care or known to the social services ministry died between 1986 and 1995—and 79 of those deaths remain unaccounted for. "What I found," wrote Gove, "was a ministry that lost sight

of why a child protection service exists."

Gove documented how at least 23 social workers and district supervisors provided services to Matthew and his mother—and how two-thirds of them were unqualified to deal with the problems being seen. He also

reported that Matthew was taken to a doctor 75 times and saw 24 different physicians during his short life. None of these reported concerns about the child's safety.

Gove's report makes 118 recommendations, chief among them being his call for the creation of a children's commissioner who would investigate all serious cases directly and require children under government care. He also urges the province's NDP government to rethink a 1993 policy that he

said placed greater emphasis on keeping children within families than protecting the safety of children. Following the release of the report, B.C. Social Services Minister Jay MacPhail said that the government accepted all of Gove's recommendations and would move quickly to implement them.



Vadwood's warnings

## New priorities

Alberta's provincial treasurer, Jim Dinning, tabled a financial update that shows that the province's fiscal health looks far rosier than he had predicted just one month ago. Dinning's new projections imply a \$45-million provincial deficit for 1994-1995—\$603 million less than he had predicted in his budget last February. Dinning added that if oil-and-gas revenues remain high and interest rates stay low for the rest of the year, Alberta could actually be looking at a budget surplus of up to \$300 million. And faced with existing public anger over the impact of \$600 million in cuts to provincial health care spending over the past three years, Dinning acknowledged that Alberta is now considering putting more money into health—only across such a health care "blow-out" used to go to pay the bankers," he said, "can save an Alberta's priorities."

Dinning's statements came on the same day that a Calgary doctor asserted that two of his

patients had died because of provincial health care cuts. Dr. Bruce Young said that both patients had died at home after being previously discharged from hospital because of a lack of beds. Alberta Health Minister Shirley MacClellan said that Young's allegations are being investigated.

## Daring rescue

Fighting gale-force winds and heavy seas, the crew of a Canadian navy helicopter lifted 30 people to safety from the deck of a ship sinking in the Atlantic. The Greek-owned Mount Olympus bulk carrier had stranded 1,800 km south of Halifax, on route to Norfolk, Va. The Sea King chopper, based on the HMCS Calgary, ferried all 29 Romanian crew members and a Greek supervisor from the stricken vessel to a nearby cargo ship. Master Cpl. Bob Fisher made more than 30 drops in the busy deck to lift passengers one by one. The chief engineer's wife, the only woman aboard, blew fuses to her rescue.



# KIDS AT WORK

In a cramped one-room home on the outskirts of Manila, Maryana, Anna, 13, and her two sisters glue the cars, cassettes and recorders on study-days made for export. Their mother started her arts in the trade at 11, although it is against Philippine law for children under 14 to work. In India, 15- or 12-year-old Mohanbhai Subhadhan—his cannot say how old he is—told up to 16 hours a day in a factory outside New Delhi, overhauling elegant scented jalcans destined for North American gift buyers.

It is a disturbing image for a Canadian parent, the heavily soiled grey truck, or Ganesha piggy bank that excited little hands will open this holiday season may have had another pair of little hands behind them. In China, Thailand and other developing countries, adolescents and even children as young as seven are working to produce toys or jacks clothing that will be exported by more profitable processors overseas. The Western labor movement has already targeted toy manufacturers who have flocked to low-cost Asia as the focus of corporate conscience-raising. Borneo child stars such as Walt Disney, Mottel and Hasbro have been linked to substantial conditions by groups such as the Canadian Labour Congress and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. The firms deny that they are directly involved in toy manufacturing. But their critics charge that suppliers to the big name toy companies routinely employ children under 14 who work long hours for substance wages. "None of these compa-

**Child labor is on the rise as countries rush into the global economy**

panies are taking enough responsibility for policing these subcontractors," says Paul Puntis, an advisor to the toy companies at the labor congress. "Whenever we investigate problem conditions in these factories, we find children there."

Yet the toy industry makes no list of a few year-old of an international child labor market that has grown, rather than shrunk, as developing countries rush to compete in the world economy. The International Labor Organization estimates there are between 100 million and 500 million children working around the world, often disrupting their health, education opportunities and intellectual and emotional growth. In developing nations, more than 28 per cent of children between the ages of 10 and 15 work. In Latin America, the rate is across per cent, in Asia about 18 per cent and in agriculture-based African countries, 26 per cent. Even in Portugal, a member of the European Union, an estimated 200,000 children are employed.

The problem is rampant and complex. Article 32 of the 1989 UN convention on children's rights outlawed economic exploitation and ensures an education to those under 14. Yet compliance is voluntary, and some countries have failed to ratify the convention. In the United States, Iowa Senator Tom Harkin has been working in vain for years to exact legislation limiting the import of products made with child labor. And union activists have failed to get ratification written into trade treaties such as NAFTA and the General Agreement on Tariffs and

## Making carpets in India: harsh economic realities

Trade. In the meantime, more and more kids are losing their childhood to job—thousands exposed to dangerous pesticides during 16-hour days in the fields, others rubbing their lungs and sinuses to dust in mines and factories. International efforts to end child labor have often been stymied by cultural norms and economic realities. Some outsiders ask how it helps an undernourished, garment-severed child taking away from his parents to work for the government. "I want to be able to study or play like other children, but I don't work, how will I eat?" said one nine-year-old Sonali Sharma, who works with her five sisters and two brothers in a textile operation near New Delhi to augment the income of their father, a cycle-repair shop driver.

Seventy per cent of South Asia's working children are employed in agriculture, mostly victims of an entrenched system of bonded labor where whole families are enslaved to pay off a debt. India has the largest child labor force in the world. By the government's count, there are 20 million child laborers—two million in hazardous industries such as mining, brick-making, match and fireworks production and construction. Some industries, such as glass blowing, iron handicrafts, carpets, paper polishing and tea, might not survive without the cheap labor provided by children. Activists estimate that there are 50 million child laborers in India, doing work as any activity that prevents a child under 14 from going to school. But kids routinely lie about their age.

At the Indian factory where little Mohanbhai Subhadhan works on his picture, a chorus of laughter from the other children greets his entrance, as he is 16. The most-faced boy has never returned to his home village in the three years he has spent in the textile workshop in Omerpur, a Delhi slum of half a million people. From dawn until 10 p.m., his small fingers quickly shift through fake pearls and sequins, then by across a glimmering canvas, considering a fabric that is then passed on to a high fashion seamstress in the capital. A dozen children eat, sleep and work in the same room, seven days a week, having been sold into virtual slavery by their parents attempting to pay off crippling debts. "Child labor is just misbranding in urban Asia," says Swasti Agrawala, a pioneer in the region's anti-slavery campaign. "The emphasis on profiting as cheaply as possible to compete with neighboring countries for export markets is causing an increase in child labor."

Some of the younger children are now get-

ting out in the afternoons to schools run by human rights workers. The programs are part of a new effort by the Indian government to respond to Western charges that it has been closing its eyes to the enslavement of its young. Earlier this fall, the Indian Minister P. V. Nandamoula Rao sponsored 180 senior lawmakers to the capital to entice their help in reaching his immediate target of freeing two million children from work by the year 2000. The new incentive paid parents a monthly stipend and food rations if they sent their children to school instead of work. Securing the family's income while educating the children goes to the heart of the problem, that has convinced those who advocate ending child labor in Thailand, where half the child labor force is estimated to be involved in prostitution. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has proposed raising the number of years of compulsory schooling from six to nine. "Then they will be 15 years old before they get out," says Swasti Agrawala, senior adviser to the prime minister on youth and social welfare.

Foreign companies are also joining the fight, either by issuing orders to pressure suppliers away from using children, or—on a costlier but perhaps more humane approach—by helping to pay for children to go to school. The carpet industry in a prime example of demand-driven reform. In India, Nepal and Pakistan, about 98 per cent of the carpets are made for export. There are 300,000 children working in Indian export carpet industry, which produces \$815 million annually—a huge jump from 20 years ago, when 20,000 children were involved in exporting \$41 million worth of rugs. Activists have responded by periodically raiding workshops in Uttar Pradesh and other states, releasing many malnourished children. Some had been lured by employers and chained to their homes. In one notorious case in Pakistan, Iqbal Masih had been chained to a wall from the age of four until he was 13, when he escaped and began to campaign against child slavery. Masih was mysteriously murdered in April of age 12, a killing observers believe is related to a \$14-million drug in European orders for rugs from Pakistan after extensive conditions became known. In January, carpet exporters and rights groups in India launched the flag-starch label, which certifies that a carpet is made without child labor. "The problem of Indian child servitude now has been exposed in a big way. They [the government] now believe they are in an embarrassing situation," says Kafilah Sayarshi

## A 12-YEAR-OLD CONSCIENCE

Carol Kellberger sometimes has to skip her grade in truth circles if he has a media interview scheduled or must answer queries from India. Most a makeshift office in the family den in Thornhill, Ont., just north of Toronto, the dynamic 12-year-old runs a group called Free the Children, which lobbies governments like Canada's to help end the exploitation of kids worldwide. Kellberger and his fellow students have already convinced 65,000 signatures on a petition urging Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to ban imports made by children and to pressure Third World leaders to introduce mandatory schooling in their countries. "There are children as young as five working chained to the ground in quarries, children in sugar cane fields and children in dangerous glass factories," says Kellberger.

He founded Free the Children last April after reading about the murder of Iqbal Masih, a 12-year-old Pakistani boy who was chained to a



Kellberger: standing up for human rights

rag born for six years after being sold into slavery for \$10. "It really upset me," says Kellberger. "What did the best of us have in common except our age?" When he discovered Masih was no relative case, the Canadian youth stepped into action. Pressed and motivated, he regularly speaks to schools and church groups. Last week, he received a standing ovation when he addressed 2,000 delegates at an Ontario Federation of Labour convention in Toronto. The umbrella also provided \$150,000 to the cause—a major boost to a nonprofit group that had been raising money through garage sales

and selling pop at community fairs. Kellberger plans to donate much of the money during an upcoming seven-week fundraising tour in Asia. He has already been to Geneva to meet with experts. They helped refine his appointments to positions in what he describes as a complex issue. "Product boycotts alone are not the answer," says Kellberger. "We need to have more powerful child labor without pending compulsory education for all." He has targeted bonded slave labor, prostitution and dangerous industries such as asbestos and fireworks as "clear cut" areas deserving special efforts.

Kellberger says he eventually would like a career as a doctor with the French group Médecins sans frontières (Doctors Without Borders). Or perhaps as an elected politician, "I personally believe Canada needs more politicians who will stand up for human rights," says Kellberger. His own campaign for children's rights is making an admirable example.

NOEMI MORRIS

of the Delhi-based South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude.

Critics argue that Western moralizing is at least as troubling that fails to acknowledge local customs, not to mention the pressures of poverty in many cultures, the presence of child labor working in crafts or in farming is a normal and expected assumption of the family unit. "You can't completely ignore Western perceptions on these matters. That shows a lack of respect," says Chuck Champin, a spokesman for Disney Consumer Products, which subcontract in a dozen countries in Asia. "There has got to be a balance." Likewise, some experts, including the global charity Oxfam, have leveled charges and estimates can hurt more than they help. A 12-year-old girl in Dhaka, for example, breaks bricks for 50 cents a day because she and 30,000 other Bangladeshi girls lost higher-paying jobs making clothes after American firms pulled out because of criticism. Such a recent editorial in *The Times of India*. An intractable debate therefore continues whether ethical practices in real life or only cover protection on the part of affluent countries.

"This issue may in part be behind the current assault by U.S. unions against conditions in Central American free-trade zones. That's a million young people—mostly girls—between 14 and 16—are working in plants operated by subcontractors to bypass American bans. Reports on Honduras and El Salvador have pointed the finger at companies including The Gap, eBay, Bauer, Wrangler, Oakley and Wal-Mart for using suppliers that violated basic labor standards. The union brochure comes at a time when 35,000 domestic apparel jobs a year are being lost to overseas manufacturing. Likewise, Mattel spokesman Karen Steiner believes the current Christmas toy campaign has entirely targeted responsible corporate citizens. "We're not the ones criminalizing the violations," she says. "It's the little-known outlets." Disney's Champin says some toy manufacturers should be praised for lifting labor standards in Asia. His admits it is hard to monitor conditions in itself because where production is carried out by second or third parties. "You cannot be everywhere all at once," says Champin. But he is satisfied that Mattel, Haskins, Tyco and other companies that produce the Disney line and other brands have investigated and found their suppliers are not using child labor. "These companies feel the same way we do," says Champin. "It's unthinkable that products made for children be made under conditions that are oppressive to children." Unfortunately, there are many employers throughout the world for which child labor remains only too desirable.

## SAVING THE BRAND NAME

It is a public relations executive's worst nightmare: Child labor risks somewhere up there with toxic dumping or unsafe products in the list of evils that can blacken the image of a successful corporation. In response to consumer pressure, many large North American firms have adopted standards of conduct that prohibit inhumane working conditions and child labor. But with as much as offshore production, the policies can be difficult to enforce. Such firms as Levi Strauss, Wal-Mart, The Gap, Ikea and Adidas have had to respond quickly to negative reports about their suppliers overseas. Wal-Mart, which has 131 stores in Canada with annual sales of more than \$2.5 billion, was the subject of a 1992 HBO-TV broadcast that showed children as young as nine working in a Bangladesh factory making shirts under contract for the company. Wal-Mart checked kids were involved, but somehow brought a stricter guideline for its manufacturing partners. This year, Wal-Mart and The Gap were confronted by video evidence of Dominican working conditions in Central American free-trade zones. The Gap cancelled a contract with a supplier there. Still, Wal-Mart Canada spokesman Edward

business in China and Burma, citing repeated violations of human rights. In Bangladesh the company went a step further when it found two of its contractors were using more than 40 children. Demanding the kids would have wiped out the incomes of entire families. Instead, Levi Strauss arranged for the factories to keep paying the children's wages while they attend school, then hire them back after they finish. The suppliers also vowed to no longer hire workers under 14.

"To stop buying completely could make the situation for a small worker in developing economies," says Gilan Nussim, president of Ikea Canada. "But using children is out of the question. If we even suspect children, we cancel the contract." Ikea, which buys from 63 countries, ended this year stopped up enforcement of a long-held labor policy after a television broadcast in Europe turned the spotlight on Ikea's rug imports, the company arranged frequent inspections of rug makers in Pakistan, Nepal and India by impartial third-party companies. "It is not just a moral and ethical question," says Nussim. "It is a question of business." Growing demand for child labor is no more expensive than any other kind of quality control, he adds. "We have to check suppliers anyway. This is not a cost, it is an investment." Yet few U.S. retailers are taking ethical issues abroad, according to a survey by a Boston investment firm. It found that fewer than 10 percent of corporations had policies in place. "This multinational turn a blind eye to what they don't want to know about," says Howard Eskin, managing director of Redwood Trading, an Ottawa-based goods distribution agency operated by the Do-Tone charity. Multinationals normally undertake to uphold the laws of the country in which they operate. If a subcontractor violates those laws, the brand name's reputation usually relies on local officials to respond. "The law is the mechanism through which a country will express its concern for its people. The country should be the primary agent of change," says Chuck Champin, spokesman for Disney Consumer Products, which is active in Asia. That said, Champin insists Disney and other toy makers monitor suppliers but cannot change foreign conditions overnight. "It's not like you walk a magic wand and make the world right." This Gap's Lukasiewicz agrees. "The only power we have," he says, "is the power to place orders and create jobs." Now, companies are being forced to take a closer look at how they use that power.



Lee's Mission: a corporate involvement in ethics

Gould is among those who maintain the myth of the omniscient manufacturer. "In Central America and other areas," he says, "we maintain a higher standard than many governments and take punitive action against a factory faster." Wal-Mart's age remains at 15, he adds, higher than the U.S. standard of 14. Gap spokesman Jim Lukasiewicz says the company has been unfairly caught in the middle of a labor dispute as workers try to organize in the trade zones. "We are just a customer of the factory, but what has it there in attacking the factory? We are a buyer." Wal-Mart, The Gap and other apparel importers with clauses over their conflicts over leaving child labor and inhumane treatment Levi Strauss, which buys from some 600 suppliers in 53 countries, has stopped doing

business in China and Burma, citing repeated violations of human rights. In Bangladesh the company went a step further when it found two of its contractors were using more than 40 children. Demanding the kids would have wiped out the incomes of entire families. Instead, Levi Strauss arranged for the factories to keep paying the children's wages while they attend school, then hire them back after they finish. The suppliers also vowed to no longer hire workers under 14.

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# A family's value

*Huge bank deposits further blacken the Salinas name*

Miguel Antonio López, a 23-year-old hotel-factory worker, has found a new way to make money in a troubled economy. On the traffic-choked streets of downtown Mexico City, he does a roaring trade in selling rubber masks of former president Carlos Salinas de Gortari. The reason: the latest scandal swirling around the family of the beleaguered ex-president, who once lay claim for Mexico's woes. Says López: "They buy the masks because they want to make fun of the family. It makes them feel better."

Not that the tangled saga is very serious, with its charges of embezzlement, drug trafficking and money laundering. On Nov. 24, Salinas's sister-in-law, Piedad Costales, was arrested while using bogus identification to try to withdraw nearly \$15 million from a Swiss bank account registered under a pseudonym for the former president's brother, Raúl. Since February, Raúl has been in jail in Mexico City charged with the murder of his former brother-in-law, another top politician. Last week, Canadian, British and U.S. authorities, who arrested him in Geneva, where authorities said they arrested her as part of "a huge money-laundering case involving several Mexican citizens." As for Carlos Salinas, no one seemed to know where he was, although he was last known to be in Canada.

All of which blackens Mexico's image and blackens almost the former president, who left office last December just before the devastating devaluation of the peso landed off a soaring recession. The gross domestic product is expected to shrink six per cent this year; the official unemployment rate has doubled to 7.5 per cent. Commentators cynically noted that the amount in the Swiss bank account is 108 per cent of the entire budget for the government's anti-corruption agency. Mexican police have documented that Raúl Salinas owns 29 properties throughout the country, including luxurious residences in Mexico City and Monterrey, as well as other bank accounts. Not bad for a civil servant who earned the three-year salary of about \$25,000 a month from 1988 to 1992 and his job running a big part of Mexico's food-distribution program for the poor.

The popular outrage is rebounding on current President Ernesto Zedillo, whose standing initially benefited from a scandal involving the family of his former political brother-in-law, later his rival. "This is a double-

edged situation for Zedillo," wrote daily *Reforma* columnist Reynaldo Riva Palacio. "If he doesn't continue the investigations in higher ranks, this going to fall back on top of him."

Mexican congressional representatives have called for Carlos Salinas to be brought back to Mexico to give an accounting. But how? Looking for him has become a national hobby, with reported sightings in Montreal, New York City, Cuba and "the Capetown Prisons." The most persistent—but possibly dated—reports suggested that he was in Montreal, which his sister Adriana is known to visit. Canadian immigration officials confirmed that Salinas entered Canada as a refugee as a visitor and could stay up to six months. But as Canada does not track departures, officials could not say whether he

was still in the country. Nor did they have any record of a visa renewal request. Immigration Minister Sergio Marchese said Salinas will be questioned about his plans if he appears at a Canadian border point.

Salinas did issue a statement, though, via his small office in Mexico. In it, he disavowed any awareness of his brother's bank account. "During my presidency, I did not know about it," But others said Carlos Salinas did know of his brother's dubious record in the food-distribution program. Raúl was named in at least three reports to the president as a suspect in trafficking thousands of tons of food grain for the country's poor.

Raúl's difficulties began on Feb. 28, when he was unexpectedly arrested and charged with masterminding the murder of José Francisco Ruiz Massieu in September, 1994. Ruiz Massieu was the ranked second in the country's long ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party in 1988. He was also the husband of Adriana Salinas.

The murder investigation had originally been headed by Ruiz Massieu's prosecutor, brother, Mario, who secured a 1990 congressional seat as the nation's first openly gay legislator. But after Carlos Salinas left office, new Attorney General Antonio Lozano, an opposition politician, built evidence that Raúl Salinas ordered the street-side slaying.

Mario Ruiz Massieu soon fled to the United States. He is now fighting extradition on charges that he covered up for his brother's murder and amassed unexplained wealth as the nation's top drug procurator—millions of dollars were found in Swiss bank accounts. Last week, the Mexican Congress set up a committee to investigate the whole affair, including Raúl Salinas's rumored ties to powerful drug boss José Guzmán Abrego. His Gulf Coast cartel is thought to transport more than two-thirds of the cocaine reaching the United States.

Carlos Salinas had long banked in international stores for spending up the Mexican economy and for his enthusiastic promotion of the North American Free Trade Agreement. "You couldn't convince Salinas because you were criticizing NAFTA and open-market reforms," says Federico Estrova, chairman of political science at Mexico's Autonomous Technological Institute. "It looks like that is becoming a little argument. Salinas is becoming the alibi for around NAFTA's track."

SALLIE HUGHES in Mexico City  
and JILLIANA KATZ in Montreal



Costales' in \$15-million withdrawal

Carlos Salinas brother Raúl (below) tangled saga



## THE CONTRADICTION THAT IS TODAY'S CHINA.

LYOUD ROBERTSON TAKES A LOOK AT THE WORLD'S MOST EXPLOSIVE COUNTRY. WITH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, CHINA IS STRUGGLING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH MODERNIZING ITS ECONOMY.

### "LYOUD ROBERTSON IN CHINA"

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## Canadian

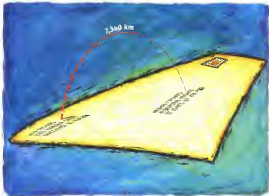
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In English on page 1 • In French on page 200

# World NOTES

## ON STRIKE IN FRANCE

Paris commuters walked, cycled and miniskated to work during a public-sector strike that clogged French trains throughout France. Telephone, utility and postal workers joined rail workers in the widespread protest against Prime Minister Alain Juppé's plan to reduce an \$80-billion budget deficit by freezing wages and slashing social spending.

## TENSION IN TIBET

China asserted its authority in Tibet by appointing a six-year-old boy as the reincarnation of the region's second holiest lama. Chinese officials drew lots to choose Gyensan Norbu as recipient of the soul of the 12th Panchen Lama, who died in 1989. The move was seen as a warning to Tibetan Buddhists who supported the exiled Dalai Lama in his choice last May of a different six-year-old boy.

## TAIWAN FEELS THE HEAT

A Taiwan party favoring reconciliation with mainland China made strong inroads in the island's parliamentary election. The result was a setback for President Lee Teng-hui and his Nationalists, who won a slim majority. Analysts said some voters had been spooked by China's recent military saber-rattling, aimed at crowing Taiwan independence advocates.

## ISRAEL STRIKES BACK

Israeli warplanes attacked Islamic guerrillas based in southern Lebanon three times after Hezbollah militants ambushed Israeli-backed soldiers in the region and fired Katyusha rockets inside Israel proper. But the Pines government appeared reluctant to step up fighting on its northern border for fear of thwarting prospects for peace talks with Syria.

## GOODBYE TO 55 M.P.H.

A new U.S. law signed by President Bill Clinton allows states to set their own speed limits instead of the former cap of 55 m.p.h. (88 km/h) imposed on most highways. Six states planned immediately to raise the limit to 70 or 75 m.p.h. (112 to 120 km/h) as in Missouri, Iowa and at least others were expected to follow.

## A PRESIDENTIAL ARREST

Former South Korean president Chun Doo-hwan was arrested on charges of embezzling the 1979 coup that brought him to power. He was picked up after he refused to appear for questioning over the coup and a bloody massacre of provincial opponents in 1980. The arrest follows that of ex-president Roh Tae-woo, Chun's successor, on corruption charges.



**THE ROAD TO BENIN:** Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Benin President Mathore Eboe cement a plaque for the Ottawa-funded, \$9-million Boulevard du Canada in the West African state. Chretien was attending the month's summit of 47 francophone nations, where he and French President Jacques Chirac expressed fears that English is dominating the information highway. Chirac urged members, grouping 400 million French speakers, to become more active globally.

## An Ulster deal

Ireland and Britain agreed on a formula to take the stalled Northern Ireland peace process forward, shortly before Bill Clinton became the first serving U.S. president to visit Ulster. Peace talks had stalled over the British government's insistence that the Irish Republican Army lay down its arms before substantive negotiations could begin. The IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, had warned that there could be a return to violence if the stalemate was not solved. In a two-night summit in London, held hours before Clinton's arrival, prime ministers John Major of Britain and John Hume of Ireland agreed on immediate "talks about talks" involving their governments and a wide spectrum of political parties, including Sinn Féin. At the same time, a five-member international commission headed by former U.S. senator George Mitchell would make recommendations on the armistice by mid-January. Substantive talks are to begin in February. However, the agreement

sidestepped the question of what would happen if the IRA renounced its refusal to lay in its weapons until later in the process. Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams retorted that there could be no preconditions for substantive talks. After praising the deal in London, Clinton flew to Belfast, where he met with Adams and other party leaders. He declared that Protestants and Catholics "must not allow the ship of peace to sink on the rocks of old hatreds and hard grudges."

## Russia joins in

NATO announced a "bustime" arrangement allowing Russian forces to join their onetime Cold War adversaries in the alliance's 90,000-strong peacekeeping force in Bosnia. Under the pact, Russia will be fully controlled in a NATO committee controlling Bosnian policymaking, although its forces will control separately. Diplomats agreed on Dec. 14 as the date for signing the Bosnia peace pact. The first contingent of 2,000 NATO troops left for Bosnia on Dec. 1 to do advance work.

BY ROSS LAVER

Ever since home computer users began pouring onto the Internet in huge numbers in 1993, corporate buyers and luxury investors have been asking themselves one key question: "How can we make money from this thing?" The answer is more complicated than it might seem. Even now, a large proportion of the travellers on the information highway are scholars, scientists and hardcore technos—people who are often hard to see the wider commercial landscape into the world's most crowded shopping mall. But whether profits will or not, the Internet has already evolved into a multibillion-dollar industry. And in the boardrooms of corporate Canada, the race to cash in on the Net's explosive growth has suddenly become a scramble.

Consider a few of the developments last week alone:

- Newly issued shares in Star Internet Inc. of Ottawa which claims to be Canada's leading provider of Internet access services, hit the Toronto Stock Exchange and immediately jumped from \$12 to \$20 before slipping back to close the week at \$17. Analysts said demand for the stock was 15 to 20 times greater than the supply.

- Rogers Communications Ltd., the country's largest cable company, unveiled a new service that will link home computers to the Internet via cable, rather than phone lines. Called Rogers Web, the service uses a recently developed cable modem that transmits data at speeds 17 times faster than the latest standard modem and 35 times faster than the modems commonly installed on personal computers. The company is launching the service in November, Oct., with plans to expand it across Canada in 1996 and 1997 in partnership with



John and Mike Kasurth with son Andrew, 11, try out Rogers' World Wide Webmarkit, Oct. 6 speed

Taken together, these announcements signal an important change. As recently as last year, many corporate executives regarded the Internet as a fad where personality would soon fade, like CD radio. But its growth shows no sign of slowing in the past three years; the number of Internet users has exploded from a few million to an amazing 75 million worldwide. Some forecasts say the number could reach one billion by the year 2000. Moreover, software developers are constantly coming up with new and more sophisticated ways to use the Internet and its graphics-rich offshoot, the World Wide Web. Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who recently made the development of Internet software his company's top priority, says the global computer network has the potential to become "the ultimate market." Eloquent Gates: "It will be where we social animals will sit, train, travel, lounge, pick stuff up, report, meet new people, and hang out."

Is Gates right? Nobody really knows for sure, in part because things are moving so quickly that anything seems possible. But on Wall Street and on Bay Street, few investors are anxious to place bets against a man who has already amassed a personal fortune more than \$20 billion from the sale of computer software. As a result, Internet stocks—a category that did not even exist two years ago—are among the hottest prices here in this year's bull market. Example: shares in Netscape Communications Corp. of Mountain View, Calif., maker of the most popular Web "browser" software—a program that allows users to move from one Web site to another, downloading text, graphics, audio and video files—hit the market in Aug. 9 at \$16, and immediately leapt to \$78. Many market

stock analysts have pegged the company's value at about \$317 million, an impressive rise considering that Star still has only 20,000 subscribers and lost \$595,071 in the last second quarter on sales of \$2.44 million. And there may be more to come: on Bay Street, investors are now feverishly anticipating the initial share offering of Open Text Corp., a rapidly growing Vancouver, B.C., company that has developed a scalable form of Web searching software. Already, some analysts are predicting that Open Text shares will double or triple in the first week of trading, based on a rumored offering price of \$24.

Of course, stockmarket frenzies have a habit of burning out, leaving a lot of investors colder at the news. And many of today's hot Internet companies will probably not even be in business five years from now, having been swept aside by an industry obsessed with its breathtaking pace of change. But companies are gambling that at least a few of them will survive the inevitable shakeout, and will be worth more than their

present value. "There's no doubt in my mind that in the current frenzy, a lot of Internet stocks are overvalued," says Ryan Zachariasen, president of Toronto-based UCCNIT Canada, Inc., which provides Internet services to about 2,000 business and professional clients. "A lot of people look at the Net and see nothing but dollar signs. But on the other hand, what would you give to have bought shares 100 years ago? The answer people are in this for the long-term game."

Zachariasen, in fact, was among the first Canadians to realize the Net's commercial potential. In 1991, he left his job as a University of Toronto computer scientist to help set up UCCNIT, one of the country's first commercial Internet service providers (hecker that, users generally had to have access to a university or government computer network). Now, it and

the estimated 200 other independent Internet providers across Canada are facing new competition from the ranks of the consumer-elephant industry, including Bell and Rogers. Along industry watchdogs anticipate a bloodbath. "By the turn of the century there were about 1,000 automobile manufacturers in the U.S., but a few decades later there were only three," says Don Tapscott, an information technologies consultant and author of *The Digital Economy*. "The same thing is going to happen to the Internet providers, with the small ones disappearing and the big ones chomping down prices."

For now, most of these smaller companies are holding their ground. They maintain that by emphasizing customer service and customized products, they can convince their clients not to switch over to one of the huge conglomerates. "Typically, our users need a lot of support," says David Bernas, 28, president of Calgary's Nucleus Information Service Inc., which has some 1,800 customers who pay \$15 a month for unlimited Internet access. Salk Bernas adds that he is in the business because he loves computers, not to get rich quick. That is probably right as well, given that the number of such computers in Calgary has gone from one to 25 in three years. As he puts it, "The Internet market is robust."

And about to become even more so. Of all the announcements last week, the fact that Canada's cable companies are joining together to form the Internet backbone industry should attract certainly have the most dramatic impact on the market. Internet industry. As cable modems gain in speed, home computer users will eventually be able to access the Web as much as 1,000 times faster than today's standard telephone modems. Instead of waiting several minutes to download a graphics file or a piece of software, the task could be accomplished in seconds, or even fractions of seconds. At the same time, a solid pipeline to the Internet allows products directly into the home: multimedia books, music, movies, games and any other application that can be imagined. Just as easily, businesses that figure out how to exploit the Web will be able to pump money out of the bank accounts of digital-age consumers.

## HOME ON THE NET

Number of Canadian companies, organizations and government agencies with registered Internet locations, or "domains"



\*1993 Canadian Internet Handbook, Internet Stock '94 Inc.

## Ernie Richard frustrated at 1500 offices in Vancouver demand



watchers denounced the initial buying frenzy, saying that the nine-month-old company is still losing money and its most popular product, Netscape Navigator, is distributed on the Internet for free. Yet last week Netscape shares were trading at \$180, after a one-day increase of \$22 when a prominent New York City broker predicted that they could reach \$270 in the next two years.

Last week's initial share offering by Ottawa-based Star did not come close to matching that performance: but it was still one of the most successful Canadian stock market launches in history. Smart investors—those who sold their stock in the first half-hour of trading—packaged a tidy 48-percent profit. Based on the closing share price, the

# PLUGGING IN TO PROFITS

Shaw Communications Inc. of Calgary and Quebec Valley Inc. of Montreal

- Bell Canada, the country's largest telephone company, began marketing its own Internet access service, called *Netpoint*, as customers in major cities in Ontario and Quebec. In doing so, Bell upped its ante in a market with the more than 250 smaller companies in those provinces that provide access to the Internet over local phone lines.

- Canada's biggest financial institution, the Royal Bank, said that by the end of next year its customers will be able to pay bills, transfer funds and access other bank services from their home computers by dialing directly into the bank's own home computers. Company officials said they intend to make the service available on the Internet as soon as they are sure that they can safeguard client confidentiality. In the coming months, the rest of Canada's big banks plan to roll out similar on-line banking projects. Presumably, they say their competitors from software giant such as Microsoft Corp., which could use the Internet to deliver financial services similar to those offered by the banks.

## Big business races to cash in on the Internet



# Steady shooter

Canada's Wescam  
focuses on the Olympics

When former football great O.J. Simpson made his bizarre break for freedom in a white Ford Bronco, Mark Chamberlain was thrilled to be part of the spectacle's little-known Canadian connection. Ironically, last year's quintessential U.S. media extravaganza was captured on TV by a camera made in Canada. Suspended from a Los Angeles TV station's helicopter on that surreal June day was a camera designed and assembled by Flambeorough, Ont.-based Wescam Inc. Chamberlain, Wescam's president, points to the O.J. chase as proof that his company's high-tech product, a gyro-stabilized camera system that can take jitter-free images under the harshest conditions, "just happens to be capturing some of the most spectacular and momentous events anywhere in the world."

That is no idle boast. To date, Wescam camera systems have been used in the production of more than 100 Hollywood movies, including the current James Bond flick, *GoldenEye*, and dozens of the world's top sporting events, including the Tour de France and World Cup soccer matches. The company's product is dropped for mounting on moving vehicles, including helicopters, planes, trucks and boats. The technology is prized by police and military forces, as much so that sales at Wescam camera systems for surveillance and public safety generate more of the company's revenues. Clients include the RCMP, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and 15 police departments in Japan.

This month, Wescam is poised to close a deal with NBC and local broadcasting organizations for the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics. The agreement could cover as many as nine corporations. "Take the publishing events," says Gary Chalko, Wescam's general manager of entertainment services. "Our cameras will be mounted as chase shots or crowd cameras that could never be achieved from the shore."

That kind of global exposure—the company also helps to cover the *Altaville*, Barcelona and Lillehammer Games—is what Chamberlain hopes will inspire the company's rise in the industry lexicon, much as *SkiDoo* has come to mean snowmobile. To be part of it, "Wescam is essentially becoming the *Kleenex* of the airborne, steady-platform shot." In fact, Wescam was an Academy



Chamberlain: His firm's sales are up sharply from 1994.

Award in 1990 for inventing and developing the stabilized camera system. It has also won several Emmy Awards. And whether the event is the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, the Super Bowl, World Cup soccer at the America's Cup yachting competition, Wescam has been there. CBC Sports director Ron Fungtyke, who will be in Atlanta for the Games, relied on a helicopter-borne Wescam at last month's Grey Cup in Regina, where 70-km/h winds made conditions difficult. "It's not subtle to the camera when the terrestrial shots are jiggling around more than the aerial shot," Fungtyke says. Adds CBC producer Mike Benington: "The cameraman is against anything but this."

Not bad for a company that grew out of a desktop spec job by Hamilton-based Wisting house Canada Inc. in 1974. Chamberlain joined the company in 1985, becoming co-owner two years later. From 17 employees and \$1 million in revenues in 1987, Wescam grew to a staff of 10 and \$12.3 million in sales in 1993. That year, Chamberlain bought out his partner and brought in Jefferson Partners Capital Corp., a Toronto-based venture capital firm headed by Jack Keenan and David Folk. In October, Wescam moved from its cramped Hamilton facility into a new 40,000-square-foot head office in neighbouring Flambeorough. It also recently completed its first public offering of shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange, netting \$87 million.

Today, Wescam employs 120 people in Flambeorough and another 110 abroad—corporate account for about 85 per cent of its business. With offices in Los Angeles, Melbourne, Fla., Paris, London, Brussels, Milan, Barcelona and Stockholm, Wescam is forecasting \$31.3 million in revenues for 1995 and \$2.0 million in profits, double last year's sales of \$26.5 million and profits of \$625,000. "They're a world-class company—not big yet, but growing very quickly," says Andrew Hession, managing director at Scotiabank Leas Inc., which underwrote the Wescam share offering.

Things were not always so good. Once back in the late 1980s, Chamberlain's sales pitch was discredited. "A military customer came in and was questioning our capabilities," he recalled. To demonstrate his product, Chamberlain grabbed a camera, shook it vigorously and directed his client's attention to a monitor. As the customer stared at the whirling-free image, the \$200,000 unit slid off its stand and crashed onto the concrete floor. Embarrassed, Chamberlain halted the unit back onto its mount. "I continued to shake it and it continued to work," he says. He made the sale. And like the camera it built, Wescam's growth has been steady ever since.

DAN HAWTHORNE is in Flambeorough and EDC NEWS in Toronto.



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# Discover Skiing!

## Why Ski

*Skiing is a great way to spend time with family and friends. It's a sport and it's social. The trip to the slopes, lunch and après-ski are part of it.*

Beginner and novice skiers make up 15% of the skiers at most ski areas — so you're in good company.

Skiing is easy to learn. Certified ski instructors can teach you to ski in a few simple steps.

Skiing is good exercise and a great way to enjoy the outdoors.

Skiing will last you a lifetime. It's a sport you can enjoy with your parents and your kids.

Skiing is great value. Most ski areas offer economical learn-to-ski packages. Skiing for a few hours, renting equipment and wearing clothing you already own makes it more affordable than you'd think.

Skiing offers super vacation opportunities. Canada's destination ski resorts are ranked among the best in the world.

Time!!!! Skiing can take as little or as much time as you have. Most ski areas offer flexible ticketing so you can ski by the hour, a half day, or at night.

## What to Wear

You probably have the basics of a ski outfit in your closet already.

Head... 50% of body heat escapes through the head. A thick, tightly knit hat or headband

that covers your ears is essential.

Body... Start with a turtleneck. A few lightweight winter layers are better than one heavy layer. You can add or subtract items as needed.

Hands... Cold hands are no fun. You need a warm pair of gloves or mittens with a wind-proof outer shell.

Feet... The right socks are important. Wear one pair of warm socks.

## Your first day

Groomed hills with snowmaking, comfortable lifts, professional ski schools, good rental equipment, quality food and beverage services and day care facilities are all part of the skiing experience.

## Six Steps To A Hassle Free Day

1. Where to go. Turn to the Discover Skiing offer for a ski area near you, or contact your local Tourism office, a professional ski shop or friends who ski. The layout of each ski resort differs. In the lodge, you'll find the skier services: ticket sales, ski school information, rental shop, and, food services.

2. Start at the Ski School Desk. Let a certified ski professional ease you into skiing quickly and safely. Use the Discover Skiing offer or ask about other beginner packages. Most ski areas offer a learn-to-ski package for beginners including rental, group lesson and lift ticket for a reduced price.

3. Rent equipment. Let the ski shop personnel outfit you with the proper equipment (boots, skis & poles).

4. Ride the lifts. These are a variety of lifts: chairlifts, T-bar, J-bar or handle tow. If you encounter a lift you are not familiar with, the ski area staff are happy to assist you.



## Clothing Checklist

- ☐ Thermal underwear (top/bottom)
- ☐ Turtleneck
- ☐ Sweater
- ☐ Warm winter jacket (or vest/windbreaker)
- ☐ Stretch pants, warm-ups, or nylon wind pants worn over pants (nylon are not recommended)
- ☐ Mitts or Gloves (leather or nylon outer shell recommended)
- ☐ Hat or Headband
- ☐ Sunglasses or Goggles
- ☐ Warm socks (thick/wool/nylon weight)
- ☐ Neck/face warmer
- ☐ Sunscreen



5. Explore on your own. After your lesson, get a trail map from the lodge, familiarize yourself with the responsibility code, ride the lifts and explore.

6. Après-ski. Relax in the lodge or on the deck and let the day's experience sink in. Enjoy that warm glow of coming in from the fresh air. Feel proud of your accomplishments and good about a day well spent.



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## Your first lesson

The best advice anyone can give a beginner is to take a lesson from a certified ski instructor.

After as little as one lesson, you'll be skiing the novice runs. Group and private lessons are available at all ski areas. They last an hour or longer, and are based on skill level, so you'll be in a group of novice skiers. Your first day will start on a flat, beginner slope.

Here's what you will learn...



- 1 Your instructor will review your equipment with you and its proper functions—especially how to get in and out of your ski bindings and how they release.



- 2 You will learn how to be balanced on your skis while sliding, and how to stop.



- 3 By placing your skis in a wedge (snowplow) position, you will accomplish change of direction ("turns"). These basics give you what you need to build on.

## Getting Equipped

It's a good idea for first time skiers to start out by renting equipment.

If the rental pros choose your equipment, you can be sure it matches your ability and progress, and your bindings are adjusted to your height, weight, age and skill.

You'll need to be fitted for boots, skis, bindings and poles. Expect to pay between \$16 - \$25 for the day. You can rent this equipment either at a convenient ski shop, or at the ski resort's rental shop. Renting at the ski area allows them to make adjustments for you anytime. Once you're comfortable with the equipment, you might want to rent from a local ski shop to get your equipment the day before. Either way, you can be sure the shop personnel will give you the right information on what you need.

## Quick Tips on Ski Boots

Comfort is important. Your heel should be snug in the back of the boot, but not quite touching the front of the boot.

## The Canadian Ski Patrol System



Skiing is one of the safest uses of outdoor recreational facilities available in Canada. The 6,500 members of the Canadian Ski Patrol make it their personal goal to insure that you have a safe, enjoyable ski day. They promote ski safety programs to

all skiers, and provide a highly professional first response and rescue service to those few in need. The yellow and blue jacket, with its distinctive Canadian maple leaf emblem, is recognized by downhill skiers and snowboarders, as well as cross-country enthusiasts. All their services are provided free of charge, and a large part of the cost of the patrol's operations is provided through public contributions.

Please send your donation TODAY to ensure your safe ski day TOMORROW.

Enclosed is my contribution of  
☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$40 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my donation to:  
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Thank you for your support! Please return this form with your gift. Make cheques payable to the Canadian Ski Patrol System. A receipt will be issued for tax purposes. Charitable registration No. 948691-69-16

## Comfort Guide



Here's a quick guide to wind chill and outdoor comfort. Wind chill is a combination of temperature and wind conditions. By dressing for the conditions, winter outdoor recreation is not only comfortable, but also very enjoyable.

### Wind Chill

+4°C to -12°C

-12°C to -20°C

-20°C to -25°C

-25°C to -50°C

-50°C

### Comfort Factor

Very comfortable outdoor winter conditions

Comfortable outdoor conditions with dry, adequately insulated clothing.

Comfortable outdoor conditions require activity and quality outdoor clothing.

Shortened outdoor activity with warming breaks. Cover all skin

Outdoor activity should be kept to a minimum.

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# Discover Snowboarding!

Snowboarding, one of the fastest growing winter sports today is a recreational activity with no limitations on style or equipment. Due to that fact, getting started can be confusing if not mind-boggling! The best place to start is at a ski area, where you can rent a board and take a lesson. This will allow you to experience the sport of snowboarding, giving you the experience required to decide which style you prefer.

## What to Wear...

Before you head for the hills, make sure you are dressed for the occasion. Loose fitting, lots of layers, water proof and durable works best for movement and warmth. You'll be spending a lot of time at first on your butt and knees, so a little extra padding in these areas will help. You can find most of what you need at home, but you can also buy gear specifically for snowboarding.

## To Rent...

Renting is a great idea for first timers. You can rent a board and boots at most rental shops. The pros at the shop will help you find the best equipment for you. The cost is relatively inexpensive. Most areas have hourly rates or special lesson packages, however not all areas have snowboard rentals and some have a limited supply, so it's best to call ahead.

## Boarding School...

When trying any new sport you'll be a lot safer and a lot more successful if you take a lesson. You will learn the basic riding techniques, as well as the different types of boards available and how to choose what is right for you. You will find out whether you are "goofy-footed" (right foot forward) or "regular" (left foot forward) and how to set up your board. In all,

you will learn how to have fun and ride safely.

## Buying your own...

After you have rented a few times, have taken a lesson or two and have a minimum of riding experience, you may be ready to purchase your own equipment. Snowboards and snowboard clothing can be purchased at an exclusive snowboard shop, ski shop or sporting goods store. You can find information on boards in current snowboard magazines, and if you are still unsure of what you want, an expert at a snowboard shop can help. Here are some hints on what you'll need.

### Boards

When deciding upon the length of board to ride, take into consideration your height, weight, riding ability, riding style and the type of terrain you will be boarding on. Try a few different lengths before you buy or contact an expert at a snowboard shop to help you decide.

There are four basic types of boards available. Try a couple before you buy.

**Freestyle** - for a mixture of jumps, tricks and big air in the halfpipe or on the mountain, a shorter, wider board is used. They are usually symmetrical in shape and flex for equal stability when riding both forward or back (backwards). Soft boots are used for freestyle riding.

**Free-riding** - is all-terrain riding combining freestyle and free-



carving maneuvers. A board with a longer, softer nose than tail is used to give better performance in powder and doing jumps on the mountain. Soft boots are generally used for free-riding.

**Free-carving** - is all-terrain riding done at higher speeds. Carving boards are either symmetrical or asymmetrical for maximum edge control. Hard boots are normally used for free-carving.

**Racing** - uses maximum edge pressure and turning performance to blaze down the slopes at high speeds. Longer, stiffer and stiffer boards are used, designed for running gates. Hard boots are used for racing.

### Boots

Proper snowboard boots are very important. There are two basic types to choose from: soft or hard boots. A local snowboard shop can help you decide which boots are best suited for your type of riding. The deciding point is a good fit and what you will feel most comfortable riding in.

So what are you waiting for, catch the excitement, "Get on Board!"

Photo: Byron from Robert Christian Rouss (cover) and Jim Rappert (year)

# Skiing Better!

Here are some great ideas on how to get the most out of your ski season. Try one or try them all!

## Ski all-year.

While you can only ski all-year in certain parts of Canada, you can take advantage of all the things you enjoy most about skiing year-round - the outdoors, spending time with friends and family, and staying active.

- \* There are many activities that will help keep you in top shape for skiing and snowboarding. Look for one that works the heart (cardiovascular exercise) and tones the body. Some of the most popular ones to enjoy in the outdoors are cycling, mountain biking, hiking, walking, running, swimming, in-line skating and even

snowboarding! Of course, you can train at a gym or community centre if you prefer.

## Prepare early.

Whether you downhill ski, cross-country ski or snowboard, you'll get the most out of the season by:

- \* Going to a ski show - you'll see new equipment and demonstrations and you'll be able to take advantage of early season special offers.
- \* Getting as equipment tune-up at a ski area or local ski shop - your equipment should be checked every year by a professional taking into consideration your ability and changes in your body that



affect the way your equipment handles. If necessary, they may recommend making some adjustments. Expect to pay about \$35 for the check-up, more for any adjustments.

## Take a refresher.

No matter how experienced or good you are, there is a certified ski or snowboard instructor who can teach you better technique and skills - so you'll be a better skier/riider, faster!

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# Discover Cross-Country Skiing!



## Discover the Fresh Air...

More and more people are discovering how good it feels to simply get outdoors for a change. If you like to walk, jog or ride your bike, then you will love cross country skiing. You can ski at your own pace, regardless of age and ability.

## Discover the Feeling...

Experience the sensation of gliding smoothly over rolling terrain, along a tree-lined trail or across a winter-white clearing.

## Discover the Fun...

Pack a picnic, bring a friend or go as a family. Ski clubs, lessons, vacation packages, organized ski tours and recreational loops are all great ways to enjoy skiing with other people. Cross country skiing is a social event.

## Discover the Challenge...

You do not have to be in super shape to start cross-country skiing, but it is one of the best and most enjoyable ways to improve your fitness whether you are a beginner or advanced skier. Ski skating is a cross country technique that appeals to skiers looking for a faster, more dynamic experience.

## What to wear

Most people are surprised at how warm they get while skiing. Dressing in layers is the key, so that you can peel off or add items depending on snow conditions, temperature and the weather.

A hat or headband is important, as 50% of your body heat is lost through your head. Long underwear, a stretchy second layer, and a wind-proof outer layer is a good combination. Be sure your clothes are loose enough to provide

freedom of movement, but a snug fit around your waist and wrists will protect you from wind and snow.

Choose gloves or mitts that have extra protection on the palm, thumb and index finger. Glove liners are helpful if it gets cold. Sunglasses and sunscreen are a must on bright sunny days. A hot chocolate and snack at the chalet is a great way to wrap up your day and share your experience with friends and family.

## Equipment

Cross country ski equipment is now very light-weight and designed to maximize the feeling of effortless glide over the snow. Today's boot and binding systems make you feel safe, secure and in control at all times. The new waxless skis make the introduction to cross country skiing effortless. It is always a good idea to rent the first few times (avoid borrowing old equipment from a friend to ensure that the bindings and equipment are suitable for your body and ability). This can be done at a ski shop or most ski centres. When you are ready to purchase equipment, a reputable ski shop can help you select the right equipment for the type of skiing you enjoy.

## First day

Go to a cross country ski area or ski club where there are well groomed and marked trails. Trail fees are affordable and well worth it. It is easier to glide on groomed trails, and beginner trails do not have

steep hills that can frustrate a first-time skier. Many areas have warm-up luts, or day lodges with rest rooms and food services that help make your day the best it can be.

The layout of each ski area differs but the place to start at almost all of them would be in the lodge where you'll find the necessary skier services, trail pass window, ski school desk, equipment rental shop, restrooms and food and beverage services. Below you'll find a list of Canadian organizations that have all the details. Call one near you for detailed info on where to go.

## First Lesson

The best advice anyone can give a beginner is to take a lesson. Take any sport, one or two simple tips from a certified instructor will save hours of fumbling around and experimenting. The basic techniques of gliding, hill climbing and controlling your skis downhill and on turns are simple to learn. The sooner you discover the secret of an effortless glide, the sooner you will experience a rhythm and harmony of motion that is a true thrill.



## Where to go!

For complete details and information on cross-country ski areas or programs near you contact one of the organizations listed below:

Canada West Ski Area Association 604-542-9020 Ontario Ski Council 416-426-7262 Association des centres de ski de fond du Québec 514-436-4051	N.B. Tourism 800-561-0123 PEI - Brookside Ski Park 902-638-2406 Cross Country Canada 613-748-3662
--	--

Sport Nova Scotia  
902-425-5450

Photo: David Allard

## Look at the Ability not the Disability!



The Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing (CADS) is the national organizing body for people with a physical disability who wish to ski. During the past two and half decades, CADS has accomplished a great deal. More than 3,000 people with a disability have learned to ski. Some of these have become highly motivated athletes who have represented Canada as members of the National Disabled Ski Team in alpine and cross country World Championships and Paralympics. Others have skied recreationally, and have developed their abilities to a level required for personal enjoyment. Whatever route was taken, the result is the same, controlled freedom of motion while on skis for people who are blind, amputees, paralyzed or who have a physical disability of any other form.

For more information on the Association, its services and how you can make a difference, please contact Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing, Box 307, Kinrossville, B.C. V1A 2Y9 Tel: 604-427-7712 or Fax: 604-427-7715.

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<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>



ORFORD	OWL'S HEAD	BROMONT	SUTTON	JAY PEAK
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<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>	<b>1-400-444-5750</b>

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# Business NOTES

## SAVINGS BONDS SALES

Canadians bought just \$4.6 billion worth of Canada Savings Bonds in 1995, down sharply from \$7.5 billion in 1994. This year's sales may have suffered because of competition from British Columbia bonds paying higher interest rates, as well as from the timing of the fall advertising campaign, which coincided with the run-up to the Quebec referendum.

## TV TAKEOVER TUSSELE

Vancouver-based Wic Western International Communications rejected allegations that its board is fighting a takeover bid from Winnipeg's CanWest Global Communications for reasons of self-interest, but has urged its shareholders to reject CanWest's \$26-a-share bid for the TV and radio company. CanWest head Iain Ayer is reportedly trying to form a third national TV network.

## FREE TRADE ASSESSED

Canada's exports to the United States were \$19 billion higher last year than they would have been without free trade, says a new study by a U.S. think-tank. The Economic Strategy Institute concludes that U.S. exports to Canada were also higher, by \$44.7 billion.

## LOEWEN'S REPRIEVE

A Mississippi court cut to \$178 million from \$880 million the amount of the bond that the Loewen Group, a funeral home chain based in Burnaby, B.C., must post while it appeals a lawsuit. Loewen wants to reduce the \$675 million in damages a jury ordered it to pay after it was found to have rigged an ad in order to buy two Mississippi funeral homes and an insurance company valued at \$114 million.

## WINNIPEG'S RUSSIAN BANK

Russian Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd. will open its first North American branch in Winnipeg. The bank said it was attracted by the city's green business, its central location on the North American continent and the Manitoba government's encouragement. It has another foreign branch in Singapore.

## AIR BAGS ONSIDE

Ford Motor Co. plans to equip cars and trucks with air bags to protect drivers and front-seat passengers caught in side-impact crashes. While some European car manufacturers recently introduced side air bags to protect the torso, Ford will be the first North American maker to do so, and the first to offer a bag that protects both head and torso. The side air bags will be available in about two years.



Animation class at Sheridan College planning a partnership with Disney

## Disney's art of the deal

With Disney Co. is planning to open animation studios in Toronto and Vancouver to take advantage of the country's growing worldwide reputation in the field. Lenora Hume, vice-president of Walt Disney Television Animation in Burbank, Calif., said the company will hire about 100 animation artists as part of a "significant, multi-million dollar investment" in Canada. The studios will work on direct-to-video videos such as the recent *Adrian of Jafar*, a sequel to *Aladdin* that has sold more than 10 million copies since its 1994 release. Explained Disney executive Tim Russo: "There are a number of very creative people who don't want to leave Canada, so we are coming to them."

Disney is also planning a partnership training program with Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont., same to one of North America's top animation programs. The college plans to increase the annual crop of graduates to 100 from 75 by adding an extra class each to its three-year classical animation program and its one-year computer animation program.

Disney's decision comes at a time when animated movies—and computer animation in particular—have become increasingly popular and profitable. Last week, investors cast a strong vote of confidence in the industry by snapping

up newly issued shares of Pixar Animation Studios, the company that made the current box-office hit *Toy Story*. Strong demand for the shares gave Pixar a market value of \$2 billion and increased Steven Jobs, its president and owner of 80.3 per cent of the company, into a billionaire. Jobs helped launch Apple Computers but left the company in 1985 after a power struggle.

## Osler appeal

Three jailed co-accused of a defunct brokerage firm were granted bail after a judge in Toronto ruled that there was no public benefit in keeping them locked up while they appeal their convictions. The decision followed the surrendering of former Osler Inc. chief executive Venard (Len) Gosselin to eight years in prison for his role in the firm's 1997 collapse. Former president Paul Cohen and senior vice-president Patrick (Tim) Chouinard each received seven years. The three men were convicted last month of skimming more than \$82 million from Osler, most of which was never recovered. In leaving the three men after four audits in jail, Justice Harvey Gosselin of the Ontario Court of Appeal said his decision should not be seen as overlooking the "nature and the gravity of the offences."

# Chapter and verse

I expect, for just a moment, someone who owns a small local bookstore. What comes to mind first? Maybe a wide patch of



**THE  
BOTTOM  
LINE**

BY DEBORAH McMURREY

twice a week patch of weeds? Or a small, cozy, cluttered room with a few shelves of books and a small sign that says "Independent Canadian Bookstore".

Most domestic businesses are facing tough international competition these days. And that has led to a healthy—and painful—restructuring throughout the economy. Just like the local stores that are valiantly holding their own against foreign-owned behemoths like Wal-Mart.

But book retailers can—and do—hide

*Booksellers are wrapping themselves in the flag to avoid competition*

behind the melting pot-culture of Canadian culture. They announce that their mission is more sacred than other retailers' because they sell Canadian books, they seem to believe that they don't have to play by the same rules as everyone else. Booksellers have carefully cultivated that moral high ground. And they've manipulated public sentiment to see an exemption from economic reality.

It was a catch to marshal support for cultural protectionism during the negotiation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement in 1989. Canadians have always been centrally paranoid about the toxic seepage of U.S. culture into the country. And a great number of people were already edgy about the possible threat of free trade. So, culture was welcomed in the FTA, and it stayed off-limits in the North American free trade deal.

Despite their liberal causes, booksellers inevitably confronted the evil spectre of cultural, free-market competition. Two Canadian book retailers, W. H. Smith and Coles, had the audacity to merge and to create Chapters Inc., a 900-store national chain of bookstores.

Chapters' creation is perceived as a threat because it is rooted in a U.S. retailing phenomenon. While book sales in Canada have plummeted during an average annual growth rate of four per cent, sales

south of the border have soared. That's largely because of the advent of glossy "no penures" that entice readers with a mix of sections of books, cozy couches, fireplaces and cappuccino.

Despite the trend, U.S. bigger stores throughout the retail sector, the Canadian Booksellers Association alerted to the Bureau of Competition Policy that such "no penures" on an air mail would destroy its 850 bookstore members—and Canadian literature, too. The bureau approved the merger, but it agreed to keep Chapters under surveillance until 1998.

Needless to say, Canadian booksellers shot into orbit when two U.S. mega-retailers, Barnes & Noble Inc. and Borders Group Inc., floated plans to expand into Canada. This time out, petulance is backed by federal grandees that require a Canadian to own the majority interest in the venture. But even if

the majority interest is Canadian, the booksellers are lobbying Ottawa to adjust these rules and block the arrival of well-capitalized competitors. Foreign competition, they insist yet again, will destroy their business—and their business is Canadian literature.

Such a rigid stance implies several things. First, that Canadian consumers aren't entitled to choose where they buy their books. That we must forever buy books under the terms set out by a self-interest group of domestic retailers. There's a word for that, monopoly.

Second, it implies that Canadian books need protection to hold their own. On the contrary, good writing will always be read—whatever the country of origin. And Canadians have had no problem scoring international bestsellers and literary awards.

Third, the booksellers' position rejects the fact that through affiliation with prosperous U.S. retailers, the export market for Canadian authors could expand significantly. According to Statistics Canada, book exports have already tripled in the past few years to \$6.1 billion.

The final chapter has not yet been written. But even if the booksellers manage to put everyone off their rage for now, free-market forces will eventually assert themselves. And in the end, only those who earn their business will keep it.

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# The time has come to declare a republic

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

It's only a trickle of talk at the moment, and most likely nothing much will come of it. But those of us who worry about the future of our beleaguered country realize that tinkering with existing institutions just won't do any more.

A good example of clinging to the status quo was Jean Charbon's laudatory comments last week that he intends to declare Quebec a distinct society. It's a worthy objective, but not unless the Prime Minister has the courage of asserting the idea with constitutional clout. Similarly, his version of granting regions a constitutional veto is stillborn, if for no other reason than his use of the term "West" to describe British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Each of those provinces boasts its own characteristics, and it's almost as silly to lump them into something called "the West" as it would be to refer to Ontario and Quebec as being "central Canada."

Canada will only survive if we make large changes quickly—which is why we ought to ditch the British monarchy. Becoming a republic would have two huge advantages. First, it would help convince Quebec that the rest of Canada is not moving to the status quo but is open to revolutionary new ideas and fresh ways of governing. This is particularly important because so many French Canadians still believe that most Anglos eat porridge every morning, worship the Union Jack and go into ecstasy over the Royals and their jolly brood.

The better, of course, that except for a tiny remnant of Edwardian snootiness, English Canada recognizes the House of Windsor exactly for what it is: an absurd family of pretentious ineffectuals. Diane's television causticisms only helped emphasize how shallow the monarchy has become.

The connection between Canadians and the British monarchy has always been based less on constitutional niceties than on a delicate balance of reciprocal dissonance: the

**Canada will survive only if we make large changes quickly—which is why we ought to start by immediately ditching the British monarchy**

Royals would visit Canada once in a while and pretend to enjoy it, and Canadians expected nothing more of them, except to keep the faith—no saints, a role model, a spiritual they could believe in.

That faith has been irrevocably shattered by the current generation's boorish behavior, exemplified by Charles, heir to the throne—and future Defender of the Faith—discrediting himself by being reincarnated as his father's Teenager. (One imagines Her Majesty waking out of her catnapped bed each morning, afraid to turn on the telly in case the BBC might be deciding yet another unrepentable act a family member had recently performed.)

Unlike those monarchies whose reigns have been disrupted by crises rocking their palaces, the House of Windsor set itself on fire and no one can douse the flames. Apart from the juicy details of the scandals that continue to haunt them, the British Royals have lost the one quality that must distinguish the Crown: their mystique, the notion that they are somehow elevated from the sorrows and twitches of ordinary mortals. It is that quality and none other that allows them to exercise

any degree of moral authority over their subjects. And it is that quality that they have irretrievably lost.

Our Commonwealth nations now trying with the idea of declaring itself a republic is Australia, where Prime Minister Paul Keating plans a referendum on the issue. "Australia has a multicultural society which has a large derivative component from Britain," he explained just before the recent Commonwealth conference. "We've developed a culture here which is changing with immigration—an independence of identity that has emerged here quite strongly." Instead of shying himself with such a progressive stance, Charles—who was visiting Australia at the time—characteristically ran for cover. "The monarchy is not a problem in Canada at the moment," he declared, bracingly adding, "I don't want to have the metaphor on my back, too."

As well as being helped by demolishing the Quebec stereotype of English Canadians as still being in thrall to the monarchy, becoming a republic could give meaning and excitement to the constitutional process instead of arguing about the number of "whereas" on the head of a pin, we could be declaring substantive values, defining a new kind of society—and most important of all, starting with a blank slate instead of trying to resurrect all but meaningless institutions that have more than served their time.

It's not as heretical a thought as it first sounds. In the past three decades or so, we have abandoned the Union Jack, which was part of the Canadian flag, dropped God Save the Queen as our national anthem, patronized our constitution from Westminster and turned the Royal Mail into Canada Post. The only remaining slip is to withdraw from under the sway of the hereditary Windsor family and name our own head of state, who would reflect our own, instead of imported values.

A recent convert to the republican cause is David Calver, the former head of Montreal-based Alcan Aluminum, Inc. and one of Anglo Canada's establishment stalwarts. "The more I think about it, the more I like the idea," he told me last week. "Becoming an independent republic within the Commonwealth would be about the right place for us. But the real reason for picking this path forward is that there are so many lockstep, contrived positions involving the present constitution that what we really need is a clean piece of paper—an excuse for everybody to start from a fresh point of view about what we need in this country and what we should be doing."

Calver tried out the idea on Daniel Johnson, the Quebec Liberal leader, who was extremely encouraging, and discussed it with the Ne champion's perennial Marxist business partner Michel Bélanger, who told him "This would give people a great chance to rethink what Canada is all about."

Certainly it is an idea whose time has come

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children. "It's a way to compensate for that loss of income from schools and libraries," says Serock, who adds that she has 1,000 transactions in her Teachers' Club, and "they are buying books for their students out of their own pockets."

Ironically, the retrofashioned at home comes at a time when the price of Canadian children's books has never been higher. Gaudin, Ontario-based author Monack has some 20 million books in print, including *Catwoman* and *Artemis* series of his 1980 hit, *The Paper Ship* (Princess #48). Sales of *Franklin the Turtle*, a character created in 1986 by Toronto writer Paulette Bourgeois and Paul Fierly, Ont., illustrator Brenda Clark, just keep getting stronger (page 56). And many lesser-known Canadian writers and illustrators have been steadily rising known. As well as winning major prizes in Canada, Montreal *Rainbow* and author Pierre Thibaut, in 1982, for his first Canadian to win the prestigious 1982 award at the Bologna Book Fair and followed it up with the 1983 Bologna Golden Apple Award for *Follow That Hat!* And this fall, Wynne Jones received the coveted Boston Globe-Horn Award for a short-story collection, *Some of the Kinder Planet*, recently released in the United States.

They join the ranks of other celebrated creators, including writers Laura Latta (*The Best Color*), Brian Doyle (*Opel Season*) and David Ellis (*One of the Sheep*) and illustrators Barbara Reid Shuman for her plasticine images and Ian Wallace and Stephanie Paulin, both of whom were nominated for the Swiss-based Hans Christian Andersen Award, known as "The Little Nobel" prize. In 1980, the Bologna Book Fair heeded a special exhibition of the work of Canadian illustrators.



Wynne Jones in 100 Mile House, a body of work that both reflects Canada back to its young audience and tells abroad

and next November, the Guadalajara Book Fair in Mexico, the largest such event in Latin America, will showcase Canada's book artists.

More than 300 people are gathered in the ornate Imperial Room of Toronto's venerable Royal York Hotel on a recent Saturday night. They are, among them, authors and book artists at the person displayed around the room. The event is a fundraiser for the Canadian Children's Book Centre, and each of them has paid \$50 for a chance to bid on 140 pieces of art donated by children's illustrators. Later, when they take their seats,

article 11-year-old in Montreal. She uses such phrases as "can't put them down" to explain the attraction of the 30-odd Goosebumps she has received from her monthly book club. She adds that the happy endings are important to her. They certainly are to parents, although Sine's success in getting children, particularly boys, to read is more of a factor in adults' approval of the series.

But parents should not confuse reading and literacy, warns Linda Park, a specialist in children's literature at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. She argues that, on their own, books like *Goosebumps* are "halfhearted reading that will only produce future readers for John Grisham and Danielle Steel." Some teachers and critics are more sanguine. In Newmarket, Ont., near Toronto, Grade 5 teacher Heather Residing championed her Goosebumps class's viewing in monsters into a popular study of the Anglo-Saxon classic *Beowulf*. And children's writer Tim Wynne-Jones says he can remember the exact moment as a boy that he tossed aside his latest Henry Boys mystery to go in search of something better. So parents who want to believe that any reading is a sign of good things to come can only hope that their child will reach Tim St. James's conclusion about *Goosebumps*. "They give you a good impression about books. In general, because they're so interesting."

BRIAN BETHUNE

## Master of thrills and chills

Being conceivable measure, the best-selling author in North America, and perhaps the world, is R. L. Stine, a veteran children's writer who recently turned to juvenile horror. Since he began his *Goosebumps* series in 1982, New York Stine has produced a new title every month, with 1.25 million copies of each \$2 paperback selling in U.S. bookstores and another 100,000 in Canadian shops, while thousands more move through *Goosebumps* clubs (and countless others abroad, in 18 languages). At its green moment, two dozen of his novels are on USA Today's list of the 150 best-selling books. His publisher, Scholastic, gave Stine primary credit for its 60-per-cent increase in profit from 1983 to 1994. Now, his reach is extending beyond books with a new *Goosebumps* TV series and a host of marketing tie-ins, including bandages and stickers.

The extraordinary appeal of such books as *Goosebumps* #38, *The Abominable Snowman of Pasadena*, coming this month, lies in 32-year-old Stine's intimate awareness of the psychic and social lives of his target audience, children of night to 12. "That's about my mental age," he once joked. Just as Stine's readers are at an age to be concerned about proving that they are not frightened, his characters consistently ego each other on to such acts as looking for a werewolf in the middle of the night. The *Goosebumps* books are equal parts



Stine as intimate awareness of kids' psychic lives

scary (plavering monsters and machinery gone malignantly haywire) and disgusting (gurgling worms pouring from a bathtub faucet). Meanwhile, there is no bad language, no divorce, and none of the protagonists ever dies.

A cliff-hanger ending to every chapter, as well as colorful, almost cheerful, cover art of skeletons at a barbecue or ghastly ghosts, also contribute to the popularity of *Goosebumps*. Among Stine's many fans, who send him 2,500 letters a week, is Tim St. James, an

# HE RAISED THE BAR FOR OTHER SKATERS. AND JUMPED OVER IT.



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SATURDAY, DEC. 9 CHECK LISTINGS FOR DETAILS

authorizer Alison Rose says the binding tighter on a *The Narrows* anytie joining. And as the brilliantly colored covers are going, going, gone for \$2.99, the audience cheers and breaks into applause. Julia Coss Watt, president and CEO of Trick Date Canada Inc., a Toronto-based children's company, says a publisher by Brian Doyle, who's the *Yearling* Star. A Timon transplanted to Ontario and an avid collector of children's illustrations, Coss says: "I had no idea there was as much wonderful Canadian art available. It's a real eye-opener for me." The evening nets \$60,000 for the Book Crawl.

Writing for children is hardly a lucrative profession for most. Toronto-based Linda Graefold, a caterpillar in residence, a category that is growing. *DDs* Coss and Owl Books have made a specialty of it, with books including craft books by Cecilia Geyko and playful science tomes by "Dr. Zed," respectively. But Graefold, who has written eight books since 1990, says that even with *Science* sales, her income averages only about \$15,000 a year. "It's a luxury for me to be able to write," she says. The author, a mother of two children, Devon, 14, and Brian, 12. "And I can only do it because I have a husband [system consultant] Cal Buckley who is the main breadwinner." Graefold loves to sketch kids during school visits when they ask, as they inevitably do, how much she earns. "When I tell them that I make about 50 cents on a \$10 book, they're aghast. One boy piped up in class, 'Oh—, she can't even buy a bag of chips with that!'"

Still, her most of the Canadian kids' community, Graefold has a lot of letters from kids and adults. "I have to do it," she says. "There's a world of ideas out there, a world of ideas to discover them, and it's an if I'm the go-between."

In *Yearling*, a newly opened children's bookstore in Markham, N.S., 14-year-old letter-jetter Clara Mackay plays results to introduce Graefold. She is addressing about 150 Grade 6 and 8 schoolchildren, telling them about the research she did for her recent picture book, *In Flinders Field: The Story Behind John McCre's Plans*, illustrated with paintings by Janet Wilson. They had seen previous titles and said there approval as the author discusses life in the bush of the First World War. She tells them how 15-year-old boys had about their age in order to join up. She talks about how the soldiers were required to be clean-shaven and often had to use old tin to shave their faces. When she describes how the troops were forced to provide rain headlamps to prevent themselves during poison gas attacks, the children respond with, "Oh, gross," and, "It's disgusting, but I guess I'd do that to survive." At the end of the session, the transporter plays *The Last Days*. The kids stand at attention, and then the relatives begin to sit. Graefold and the boys move to sing along. They sing, *Alone, Alone, Grade 6* (and the boys) *Alone, Alone, I see 'D's and I know a little bit* this to tell you about the war it gives you details about the trenches and really tells you how the men lived."

With *STORY PRESSURE* on 100 N. Hwy. JOHN MORRIS and JENNIFER PETERSON in Toronto

## A new paperback princess



Munsch (left), Asker, a Lebanese girl's tale

Kidlit superstar Robert Munsch gets a lot of letters from children. About 10,000 a year, he estimates. Mostly, the youngsters write to thank the *Orphan*, Ont., author for his books—he has written 27 of them, of which there are more than 20 million copies in print. In languages ranging from Spanish to Mandarin—and to ask him to visit their school. But three years ago, a letter from a Grade 2 girl in the Toronto suburb of Scarborough stood out. Seven-year-old Saoussen Asker described how she had come from Lebanon when she was five and could not speak English. "A lot of funny things happened to me," she wrote. Curious, Munsch replied, asking for details of what happened. Their correspondence has resulted in the novel *From Far Away* (Juniper), co-authored by Munsch and Asker and with art by longtime Munsch illustrator Michael Markshenko. The young author says she almost turned down Munsch's invitation to collaborate. "At first I thought I'd have to write it but 10,000 times," recalls Asker, now 10. But Munsch explained the printing process, and now she says of her experience, "It's pretty cool."

Written as a letter from Saoussen, the 24-page book begins with a description of how she and her Muslim family (parents Nook and Zaweib and older sister Zeina) fled Beirut during the civil war. "My mother and fa-

ther said, 'There is no food and we are getting shot at. We have to leave,'" she writes. By page 4, the little girl is in a Canadian kindergarten class, unable to understand a word the teacher says. When she has to go to the washroom, she waits for the instructor to turn her back, then crouches under desks to the door. At Halloween, an event she knows nothing about, she is terrified to discover a paper skeleton in the school washroom and thinks people are going to start shooting again. But by the story's end, she has gone out back-on-leaving her mother, and has become the best speller and reader in the second grade. "I showed the book to an ESL [English as a Second Language] teacher before it was published, and she cried," says Munsch. "She'd had kids hiding under their desks in fear in her class."

Bookshelves have ordered all 125,000 softcover copies of *From Far Away*. And at a recent book-signing in a Scarborough mall, Saoussen and Munsch autographed more than 1,000 copies of the \$4.95 paperback.

They share half of this royalties (the other half goes to Markshenko), but Munsch had to convince Saoussen's father, a computer programmer, and her mother, who is studying English, to take the money. "They had this idea that I was the famous writer and that, simply getting the story published was enough reward for them," he recalls. But the author says Saoussen deserves it. "She's a good writer, and quite a savvy editor," Munsch says. "I'd send her a draft and she'd cut my paragraphs up and insert something she thought worked better."

Munsch admits that at first he had misgivings about the subject matter—most of his books and spinoff movies, as well as his CD-ROMs, have been full of comic hyperbole. But the new volume, like Munsch's previous work, authentically reflects a child's point of view. And it has a streak of typical kids' humor while being comforted by the teacher: the little girl is so upset that she pees in the woman's bag—a development that sends Munsch's young listeners into hysterics when he reads at schools.

Last week, Munsch accepted a new manuscript from Saoussen and Munsch, about a paper plane that has a girl to visit her Lebanese grandmother. Far from the state that forced her to emigrate, Saoussen has found another home—and a new friend in Robert Munsch.

DAVID TURBIDE



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Daddy, If the theory of relativity is taken as constant, and  $\pi$  is set at 3.1416, then why is it when light is refracted across a spherical plane, time itself decreases?



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ing illustrations have struck a responsive chord in children and parents alike. Since Franklin's 1988 debut, the series—named at children age 3 to 5—has sold more than six million copies at five major houses. The Toronto publisher, Kids Can Press, has won all such merchandise as Franklin book bags, T-shirts and puppets, and it has recently licensed a Franklin educational CD-ROM.

And his longy but lovable green face is featured in hit TV screens as Franklin's own cartoon series. Late last month, Toronto's Nelvana, Canada's largest animation company and the maker of the *Beetle and Boppy* cartoons, was in the process of acquiring film and merchandise rights to the character. It is all still a bit of a shock to Bourgoignie, 54. "I could not have imagined a decade ago," he says, "that I'd be sitting here talking about Franklin dolls, film rights. C-BOY! I wrote one story

## Franklin, the timid terrapin, has captured children's hearts

Clark (left) and Bourgoignie: book bags, T-shirts, puppets, a CD-ROM and, in the works, Franklin's own cartoon series

and was thrilled that anybody wanted to publish it.

Before Franklin, Bourgoignie was a freelance journalist and a new mother contemplating writing a children's book. She had researched the field but had not been able to

come up with the right character. One night, she was up late feeding her newborn daughter (Natalie, now 12) and watching a rerun of *M.A.S.H.* In the episode, the *McHale's Postcard* character releases during a beach attack to take shelter in a dark cave, pleading calmly to his rescuers. "He said something like, 'Look, if I were a turtle, I'd be afraid to go into any shell,'" Bourgoignie recalls. "And that was the genesis of Franklin in the Dark."

Within a week, Bourgoignie had written the story and sent it off to use Canadian and various American publishers, all of whom rejected it. Then, she submitted it to the owners of Kids Can Press, Valerie Blainey and Ricky Englander, who expressed interest but told her the manuscript needed work. For a while, with its prepublication life, the story was called *A Turtle They Called Gideon* and Franklin's name was nearly changed to Michael. But Franklin prevailed—and triumphed. Since then, young readers have fol-

lowed him through many situations and growing up stages, from *Worry Up, Franklin* (1989) to *Franklin's Merry* (1990) to the latest, *Franklin and the Tooth Fairy*, released this fall.

That success is due to an odd small part by the art of Brenda Clark, Clark, who had worked in educational work before Kids Can asked her to illustrate a picture book, *Stakey and the Snowman* (1983), and then Franklin, as the story appealed to her musically. Bourgoignie and the publishers, available to give her complete freedom in being the character to life. "I like to make things behave alive, not realistic," says the soft-spoken 49-year-old artist. "I must look to think that what's going on isn't with reality off the map, to believe that Franklin could actually exist beneath a pond." Her illustrations amplify the turtle's emotions and include the kind of detail that delights small children. Franklin has a turtle clock on his bookcase and likes his pacifiers to be dripping with maple syrup and a generous sprinkling of ladybugs.

Both Clark's and Bourgoignie's children have grown up with Franklin and take his presence for granted. Bourgoignie, who is separated, says that Natalie and 10-year-old Gordon seem to share a mixture of pride and embarrassment about her career. "When

emotional resonance and humor." In *Franklin's Pile* (1990), for example, the title gives away boasts to his friends that he can eat "70 flies in the blink of an eye." He consults with his parents to avoid them to escape from his lie, but eventually figures out on his own that he has to admit it to his companions. Then, to show them what he can do, he takes a pre with 70 flies in it and gobs it down. "Very often, there's a kind of parody in children's books, with adults pointing out the lesson to be learned," says publisher Blainey. "We try hard to avoid that. Franklin's parents are there to support him, but he usually resolves it himself. That's a large part of the appeal."

Nevertheless, Franklin has had a few bumps along the way. Blainey speculates that some reviewers have ignored recent Franklin titles because they think the series has become too commercial. And there is some parodying of Franklin's naivete within the Kids Can community. Most often such as "Franklin Comes Out of the Closet" and "Franklin Cross-Dresses" have flared around in the low-groffing. "I've even heard there's some naughty stuff on the Internet," says an amused Bourgoignie.

Some of that may be any of Franklin's creators—and of history

they were smaller. I used to give them five dollars to take an outfit to birthday parties, she recalls, laughing. "But after a while they began to balk and say, 'We can't take those! They're just Mummy books.'" According to her mother, Natalie has become an excellent writer who points out discrepancies in the manuscripts, and sometimes helps with the stories' resolutions. Meanwhile, Clark says that her child, five-year-old son Robin, hears the Franklin stories being read at school but she does not think he quite understands her role in creating them. "He knows I do those drawings, but I think he thinks that all mothers do that," says Clark, who is married to Bob Condit, a copy writer for Ogilvy.

Certainly not all mothers have a four-book-a-year contract to fulfill. Clark and Bourgoignie are now producing four new Franklin titles annually for Kids Can, which has a licensing agreement with the North American school book clubs run by New York City-based Scholastic. The U.S. clubs have sold anywhere from 250,000 to one million copies per title, while Kids Can sells about 100,000 copies of new titles in the first year in Canada through retail outlets, book clubs, and such specialized marketing as the *Avon* catalogue.

Both authors and their say they are concerned about keeping Franklin fresh and are wary of the books becoming formulaic "merchandise." As an early part in the Scholastic deal, the pair laid down that they could easily oversee the series while contracting out some of the work to other writers and illustrators. But the idea proved unworkable: neither was satisfied with the results, and they quickly re-established themselves as the hands-on creators (although Clark does get assistance in the production process).

Bourgoignie points out that since thousands of books exist about the lives and attitudes of young children, what matters is a distinctive approach. "What you need is a good story, a good character, an unconventional way to tell that story, and tell it with some



Franklin puppet and books: wary of the series becoming formulaic "merchandise"

and Englander—who have achieved a measure of financial stability as a result of a difficult industry history. It's a transplant. New Yorker took over the company in 1970 and Toronto's Englander, 51, became her partner in 1981. "We wanted to publish quality books, books that kids would like to get as birthday presents as opposed to books that adults think they should get," says Hainey. From a business position, they have steadily built up the company to the point where it now pulls in \$45 million annually in gross revenues, employs 16 full-time employees and dozens of freelancers, and enjoys an international reputation. And while Franklin may be their nearest seller, they publish an average of 35 titles a year, at least half of them nonfiction.

Neither is Franklin the only going concern for Bourgoignie and Clark. This summer, Bourgoignie released two science-education books with Kids Can called *The Sun and the Moon*, aimed at children aged 7 to 11—bringing the total number of children's and preteen books she has written to 28. And Clark worked up an educational cartoon-drama game called *Picture Chase*, which was named one of the top 10 toys by the Canadian Toy Testing Council this year. But it seems unlikely that Franklin, Bourgoignie and Brenda Clark will soon walk away from their most famous offspring, even if he has been around for a decade. After all, as so many turtle-beaked children have reminded them, they are such "Franklin's mommy." □

BY DIANE TURBIDE

Patricia Bourgoignie knew she had a hit on her hands when she opened that door one Halloween about five years ago and saw a little girl dressed as a turtle. "I'm not a Ninja Turtle," she, the trick-or-treater and emphatically, "I'm Franklin!" Franklin, an author of toddlers and young schoolchildren knows, is the star of a series of 22 books written by Toronto-based Bourgoignie and illustrated by Brenda Clark of Port Perry, Ont. The adventures of the tiny terrapins are commonplace—Franklin learns the trick, acquires, gets lost, goes home—but the books' winning traits end endear-

# A rich garden of new books

The season offers literary delights for children of all ages and inclinations

This fall, there is a fun house of new reading experiences for children of all ages. Nature's enchantment elicits review notes of its highlights.

**WEDLAND CHRISTMAS** (Scholastic, \$16.95) retells the classic carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas* that in the splendid version by (illustrator Frances Turrell) at Quilley, Ont. It is a young boy who can't live in the, and the 12 gifts involve creatures of the northern woods: the eight muskoxen are necessary covering buckets of Miley Yew starbust, and the 10 birds a-buzzing are—what else?—a herd of gallant moose, regal reindeer and arch bats.

**IN THE SNOW WHO'S BEEN HERE?** (Greenwillow/Macmillan, \$22.95) takes a tour through the winter woods and finds plenty of signs of animal life. American writer-illustrator Lindsay Barrett George has created big, tasteful, realistic creature to go with her curiously breaking text.

**WILD IN THE CITY** (Owl, \$14.95) takes a walk on the mostly bad side of urban life. Thelwell, Ont., writer-illustrator Jan Thornhill has concocted an ingenious diary-chain narrative—no one spot a neighborhood changing a moth involved in a last-ditch by a thief—and accompanied it with bold, primary-color illustrations.

**KANITANA** (Goldfish/Canadian Manda, \$22) casts a winning spell with its atmospheric tale by Russian great Anton Chudakov. Its positively surprising illustrations by native Russian Genady Spirin, and the most adorable-looking pooch seen since *When Rastanika loses her beloved master, she goes the other way*, only to be found by him again under the big tree.

**A FISH TALKS** (The Little One That Got Away (Greenwood, \$17.95) is a clever parable about a small fish who goes far to the water's surface. Award-winning Ottens author and illustrator Lisa Yee has written an engaging story full of tidbits worthy about the selective power of the unknown. And his humorously beautiful watercolor sketches are worth the price of the book.

**THE TWO STOPS OVER** (Shapell, \$4.95) offers an unforgettable lesson in what it calls the Three "T"—Tears, Ties and Terrors. In Canadian John Bland's story, accompanied by his own wacky, cartoonish illustrations, a young mouse lives a shoe-sneaking, never-ending road for a sleep-over, much to his parents' disapproval. The good words tell a powerful cycle (losing the Three T's, of course).

**MATH CURSE** (Viking, \$22) contains interesting anti-epic with any humor about of all things, mathematics. Young math whizzes will love, and probably learn something too, as they meander through the latest collaboration by New Yorkers Joe Scavino (writer) and Lane Smith (illustrator), in which a child discovers, to his horror, that everything can be seen in a math problem. The book's



their school exercise books, their favorite books, their families, their houses and their schools. All told, an impossible journey.

**THE CHILDREN OF CHINA: AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY** (Tundra, \$17.95) is a book to be stored over and over for its realistic but involving photos of young people from China's diverse cultures. Montreal artist Song Nan Zhang, who accompanies his pictures with informative text about various tribes, writes first before he immigrated to Canada in 1969. He was entranced by the colorful sounds because they "represented freedom in a country with no freedom."

**BOY BOY** (Scholastic, \$18.95) takes readers to East Africa with a simple but resonant tale by Edmonstone Tolden Mollé, a native of Tanzania, and exquisite, evocative watercolor by Philadelphia artist E. B. Lewis. Although the book is steeped in African folklore, it resonates with a fundamental childhood urge—the desire to be big.

**DA DA DA! RABBIT BROTH** (Candlewick/Greenwood, \$18.95) is honest, playful and ultimately concerning in the way it addresses the trauma of getting a new brother or sister. Brian Yee Cusan, creator of the *Malay* series, has produced another strikingly original book filled with delightfully childlike drawings and eye-opening colors.

**QUEST HOW MUCH LOVE YOU** (Candlewick/Greenwood, \$15.95) has deservedly become an international best-seller since it was first published in Britain last year. A clever blend of psychology and emotion, Northern Ireland author Sam McBratney's text consists of a tender contest between little Mallow and his father. The author has been about who loves the other more. Combined with Anna Jones's sweet, delicate watercolor, it's a match made in heaven.

**THE** (Metcalf, \$9.95) stands out because of its content. Also, author Hazel Hutchings loves, evocative writing—"It all seemed to speak to her—that quiet sweep of granite and the sky as well." This is the story of a girl growing up on the Prairies during the Depression—and having to collect dried cow dung for fuel—has found a perfect match in Turrell's Ruth (his honest watercolor).

**THE LITTLE A NEWSPAPER** (Libby (Tundra, \$14.95) is a beautiful and heart-breaking, a story about a boy's journey with his grandfather that has the flavor of real life and, especially, of the indomitable people of the Rock. Wilfrid's father has written a lyrical, elegiac tale and accompanied it with gorgeous, misty acrylics and pencil drawings.

**THE MAGIC BOOT** (Avalon, \$18.95) is a charmingly absurd tale of a boy who leaves his footprint in history. Tippi's enormous feet cause everyone problems, and a

boy's gift of a pair of enchanted boots has some unexpected results. Metcalf's illustration Tippi's distinctive style—loose, black, coarse outlines create color blocks—is a good match for the comic antics of Tippi's story.

**SHO AND THE BOMBS OF THE BOOP** (Metcalf, \$17.95) explodes with history, colorful illustrations that recall various folk tales and the work of renowned Japanese artist Holokus. Accented by Tippi, Ont., artist Kanaoka's Great Gaiden makes her debut in a storybook that tells it is about a Japanese girl who wishes people how to defeat their nightmares. She's art was Grand Gaiden's Governor General's Award this year in the French language children's books category.

**THE LAST QUEST OF GILGAMESH** (Tundra, 1993) also won a Governor General's Award for art, in the English-language category, last month. Montreal writer-illustrator Laila Zanna, who has created two previous books about the ancient Mesopotamian king, told about his journey toward into a mirrored kind, completes the epic with Gilgamesh's wedding anniversary after the death of his friend. Zanna's language is dramatic, and her evocative, finely detailed illustrations heighten the story's power.

**JUST LIKE ME** (Greenwood, \$14.95) at Vancouver's Anne Marie's Intersect tale of Solly, a girl at about 10 in Montreal who sends her favorite doll to England as part of a Second World War relief program at Christmas. The subtle, sensitive illustrations by Kate Research of Anson, Ont., are the real highlight of this book.

**FLANDERS FIELDS: THE STORY OF THE POEM BY JOHN MCNEIL** (Singer, \$16.95) evokes—for older children—the darkness of the First World War with Linda Gaudin's straightforward, fact-based text and with fellow Turrellian Janet Wilson's moody drawings and paintings, as well as photographs and archival material. Recounting the story of Canadian physician and writer Macneil, who died of pneumonia while leading troops in France, the book also offers a wrenching description of trench warfare.

**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD** (Greenwood, \$14.95) proves that even the most familiar tale can be given fresh life. In Montreal artist Marie-Louise's version, Red Riding Hood, Mark, monkey hair, is a young girl who is a young girl, and the punchy tale is more subtle than *Lightning*. The saturated colors and blacky forms of the illustrations are the story's simplicity. And they sparkle with wit. Red Riding Hood's face on a dinner plate perfectly captures the cartoonist's touches.

**THE BLUE POKER ROYALTY** (Reed, \$25.95) gilds goes when her childhood hero, who lives in the two corners. Jelly Paster's watercolor, blue, green, yellow—like a rainbow, postmodernism's realm of overlapping busy lines and general crowd delight. The British husband-wife team of writer Alice and artist Janet Adhams (who did last year's *Just Like Me*) have created another marvel of wit, rhythm, texture and stories within fragments within fragments.

**PRINCESS PRINCE AND THE PURPLE PLUM** (Key Porter, \$14.95) postulates what happens when a pompous, proud prince pretenses a poor old woman, who then puts a curse upon her. Toronto poet and prose writer Margaret Atwood and picture maker Mary Ann Kowalski portray how Princess must perform Three Good Deeds to make a purple peasant disappear from the pointy tip of her princess. A pinked prince, a gap and three prospects provide comic backup in this allegorical parable. By the way.

**JUST STAY PUT** (Greenwood, \$14.95) tells a folktale about an idle dreamer from a Jewish village in Poland who sets out for Warsaw. He never returns it, but along the way there is comedy and confusion. Toronto writer-illustrator Gary Clement brings a Chagall-like air of fantasy to his personal and graphic drawings, which retell the story's absurd aspects.

**JACOB** THOUGHT THE **HIT SPY CASE** (McClelland & Steward, 17.95) is writer Mandelstam Koller's three children's novel about the now-6-year-old boy who says everything there is to know himself heard in the grown-up world. With the help of his mysterious neighbor, the poetized, X. Barnaby Dimpleshot, "I've had a bath in Turkey and eaten turkey in a city called Bath"). Jacob handles injustice—in the form of both under-culture food—in his kindergarten school, all of it with wit and sharp tongue as adult hypocrisy and frustratingly charmed surrealism sketches by Torosianian Persian Evelyn. *Spy Case* is a treat for adults as well as young readers.

**THE BIG BAZOOKY!** (Random House, \$19.95) depicts another boy hero embracing a blow for child power, written by another renowned adult author, Australian native Peter Carey. Sam Koller's parents are in a fix: broke, they have come to a San Francisco hotel to try to sell one of Sam's mother's paintings to a rich patron. But the man is nowhere to be found, and then Sam himself disappears, dragged into the Porcine Middle Competition by a feral pig couple. Carey's novel has a strange sense of atmosphere, and the story—accompanied by New Yorker Artists' Book illustrations—is a very

**NOTES ACROSS THE ABIDE** (Thistlewood, \$9.95) has something very serious—especially these years—for a more realistic take on life. Edited by Toronto-area children's book expert Peter Carnier, *Note* is a collection of powerful Canadian short fiction selected from submissions to the *Smokestack* publisher's National Young Adult Short Story competition. The authors tackle everything from sexual abuse to the winning piece, Winnipegger Linda Holmstrom's *How to Trick A Friend* to a parent's infidelity (Montreal, Que., resident Dina Chugan's *Grey Friend*) and ragers in settings from Sri Lanka to a North West Company deli 200 years ago.

PATRICIA HLUCHY and DAANE TURBIDE



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# Natural Selection





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## PEOPLE

### A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

According to juggler **Shari Lewis**, a person doesn't have to be Jewish to go to a Chanukah party. That is why when public television station WTTW in Chicago asked Lewis to produce television's first televised comedy show about the annual eight-day Jewish holiday, she hired each guest as actors **Pat Morita** and **Alan Thicke** to join her and her famous dachshund, **Larry Chap** and **Charlie Rose**, to



Morita (left), Lewis: cooking fetters

like the festivities. "I never thought I would be able to do a show like this. It's very exciting," says Lewis about **Larry Chap's Special Chanukah** (aired last May on Vancouver for broadcast on PBS channels on Dec. 11, one week before the festival begins this year). The one-hour program focuses on the traditions, food, songs and stories of Chanukah, which marks the victory of **Judah Maccabee** over **Antiochus IV** in 304 B.C. Lewis, who is Jewish, shows, for instance, how to prepare latkes, or potato pancakes, which are a traditional Chanukah dish. It was the first time the 60-year-old ventriloquist had cooked an TV "I tell you **Julia Child**," says Lewis. "Of course, she's not so bad with latkes chops herself."



Freiner as Haig, intriguing

### CAUGHT IN THE CROSS FIRE

When it came time to portray **Alexander Haig** in the made-for-TV movie **Kissinger** and **Waco**, Canadian actor **Matt Frewer** discovered lots of material to help him study the part of the general and bureaucrat. Along with the historically based script by Canadian writer **Michael Ondaatje**, Frewer says he delved into biographies and newspaper articles about Haig, as well as old TV news clips. In the movie, showing on **The Movie Network** on Dec. 10, both **Kissinger** (**Alan Silver**) and **Waco** (**Steve Sandberg**) see Haig as a pawn in their behind-the-scenes maneuvering to end the Vietnam War. But while Frewer—best remembered as the wacky talking head on the 1987 television series **Mr. Meeseeker**—says he found Haig to be an intriguing personality, he was also ambivalent, duplicitous and overbearing. Adds the Victoria-based, Los Angeles-based Frewer: "He's not somebody you'd want to invite to a cocktail party."

### THE TWO-EDGED SWORD OF SATIRE

For the creators of **Double Exposure**, CBC Radio's weekly comedy program, politics is a two-edged sword. The same elections, scandals and resignations that provide **Linda Cullen** and **Bob Robertson** with raw material for their sides can also banish some of their best character voices. During the nine-year run of the Vancouver-based show, Cullen, 34, has caricatured **Margaret Thatcher** and **Pat Carney**—and then lost them to retirement. Cullen is now working on **Alice McDermott's** voice, but says the new federal NDP leader has to make the news first before debuting on **Double Exposure**. However, Robertson, 58, just brought one of his best creations out of retirement, **former prime minister Brian Mulroney**, launched a \$60-million libel suit against the government. Robertson and Cullen have also just released their first book, **Double Exposure**, and their second television special, **A Self Kick in the Year End**, will be broadcast



Cullen (left), Robertson, retirement woes

on the CBC on New Year's Eve. The duo, who are also a couple off the air, say they do not take their work home with them—except for some research. Says Cullen: "We are the two people who watch **Newsweek**."

### GETTING BACK IN THE GAME

Longtime general manager **Pat Gillick** worked tirelessly to build the expansion **Toronto Blue Jays** into what, during the late 1980s and early 1990s, was the major league's most successful franchise. He was not so good at retirement, however. Last week, only 14 months after struggling to win back his past with the Jays, the 50-year-old 36-year-old dandyman was accused his former team and fans by announcing he was returning



Gillick: fearful

ing to the game—but with the real Baltimore Orioles. In tears at a Toronto news conference, Gillick said he missed the day-to-day business of baseball. "I just wanted the challenge to get in and run a club for a while," he explained. Typically, Gillick seems to have an impact on his new team almost immediately. In his first week on the job, he talked with representatives of several major free agents—including **Jays Paul Molitor** and **Roberto Alomar**. U Gillick takes these players with him, fans will be doubly and to see him go.

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS



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# ADDICTED TO THE URGE TO SPLURGE

When Doug felt depressed, angry or afraid, he did not seek solace in alcohol or drugs—he went to a store and bought. And he borrowed money to do it. Armed with two department store credit cards and a MasterCard, Doug purchased gifts, stereo equipment, expensive dinners, even a car—and, in the process, amassed debts of \$16,000 before he admitted to himself that he was in trouble. “I had a lifelong pattern of using money as a mood alterer,” says the 34-year-old Toronto computer programmer, who “like many other compulsive spenders who speak to *Afterlife*—admits that his full name isn’t used. “In my family, money was used to express love, so I later spent money to show myself love.” In 1982, Doug joined the local chapter of Debtors Anonymous, a self-help group for consumers that follows the same 12-step program developed by Alcoholics Anonymous. Now, he spends cash—and says that he is only six months away from being debt-free.

Shopping sprees the capitalist world go round. But for a small number of consumers, buying things is not simply a fact of life but an obsession. Compulsive shopping, or shopaholism, affects about one per cent of the North American population, or about four million people. For many, it is a way to deal with other, even basic psychological problems, experts say. But the culture of acquisition and materialism plays a part, too—especially during the Christmas season, when purchasing gifts is, for some, an attempt to buy acceptance, happiness, even love.

Whatever the causes of compulsive shopping, its effects are direct—and debilitating—for the many shoppers who do not have enough money to support their habit. As the credit-card bills start piling up, more and more consumers are turning to credit counselling services or self-help organizations like Debtors Anonymous, which started in 1964, the number of such organizations operating in Canada has risen by more than 21 per cent.

Although women in their 30s and men in their 50s tend to be particularly susceptible, according to researchers at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto, there is no typical psychological or demographic profile for shopaholics that there are some common traits. Compulsive people, notes Dr. Julian A.C. Giger, staff psychiatrist at the Clarke Institute, may be rigid in their thinking—even obsessive—be consumed with meeting deadlines, or have disordered sleep, or with sexual details. 80, Giger adds that compulsive shopping “is usually only a byproduct of some other problems—for example, a depressive or manic disorder.”

Ellie Tieniste, a Vancouver therapist-counsellor at Counselling Services for Women, says many of her clients’ clients come in to discuss sexual abuse, depression or a bad relationship—but during the course of treatment, a shopping problem often surfaces. “I’d say that about three out of 10 clients have compulsive shopping as a side issue,” says Tieniste. Often, patients have several problems at once. A 1990 study at the University of Cincinnati Hospital in Ohio reported that of 10 psychiatric patients with “problematic buying behavior,” 15 suffered from major mood disorders, 16 had anxiety disorders, eight had bipolar mood disorders, and seven had eating disorders.

While the causes are complex, therapists agree that compulsive shopping is a method of coping, a form of relief from anxiety caused

by boredom, depression or an unresolved trauma. Like alcohol or drugs, experts say, shopping can become a form of self-medicating behavior that compensates for a lack of self-esteem, love and attention. “It is an addictive behavior because it creates a buzz or high to relieve anxiety, but it is followed by depression and, often, guilt,” says Geyer. Compulsive. Winnipeg psychologist Dr. Ron Blahnik says, “only on an activity to help them out because they don’t usually know how to deal with their problems by looking at themselves.”

Jen, 37, a sales manager for an automotive after-market dealership in Mississauga, Ont., knows what Giger is talking about. He lost his job as a cellular phone salesman in 1992—about the same time that he and his wife were going through marital problems. In the face of that stress, he says, he found solace in compulsive spending. “I began raising up a lot of credit to pay for things,” says Jen, who

*‘Tis the season for all to spend—  
but so-called shopaholics find it  
hard to say ‘no’ at the best of times*

joined Debtors Anonymous in August, 1994, and now has about a year to go before he achieves debt freedom. “I began viewing spending money as loving myself and debt as a reward.”

But if compulsive shoppers are satisfying a psychological need, there are also a host of social pressures that, in effect, encourage them. Philippe Denis, a budget counsellor at the Association coopérative d’assistance financière in Montreal, says that shopaholism has been encouraged by the evolution of an increasingly credit-dependent economy, largely due to the steady decline in employment. With the decline in full-time jobs, more people are working—and earning less—in part-time, casual and self-employed positions. “People want to keep living at a certain level but can’t adjust to a lower-income lifestyle,” says Denis. “So they’re more likely to use credit to fill gaps in their budgets.”

Most shopaholics readily acknowledge that credit is not as blameless for their overspending—but its wide availability makes the habit easier. In 1994, there were an estimated 58 million credit cards in circulation in Canada. More than 27 million of these were Visa or MasterCard—up 7.1 million from 1989. The credit-card boom has led to a huge debt load for Canadian consumers. In 1975, Canadians held \$2.4 billion in debt on Visa and MasterCard; in 1994, they owed \$12.4 billion on the credit cards—up more than 600 per cent in 19 years. The credit-card market is highly competitive, so companies are offering more incentives—free air miles points to prizes,

even help with mortgage or car payments. But no matter what carrot they are dangling, warns Laurie Campbell, program manager at Credit Counselling Services of Metropolitan Toronto, “it’s never a mistake when you can’t afford it. You shouldn’t keep buying things just to rack up bonus points.”

Meanwhile, in the media and in advertisements, conspicuous consumption is portrayed as a good thing. “Shoppers don’t have a bad name because we’re programmed to shop—it’s part of the marketplace identity, and it’s what binds us together as a nation,” says Dr. Wynneant, a psychologist in Lethbridge, Alta. “There’s a willing to spend on something whether it’s a product or a philosophy—they all want to make a better out of us.” And the cost of believing can be high. “People are so wrapped up in having things now that they don’t consider credit-related interest or handling fees,” says John Ennis, manager at the Credit Counselling Services of Metro Toronto.

While the pressures of the marketplace inspire virtually no one, they hit shopaholics where they are most vulnerable. Phil, 37, a Canadian-born accountant in Vancouver, joined Debtors Anonymous over three years ago after feeling like he was approaching personal bankruptcy a second time. He describes how compulsive spending did not seem to him about their shopping expenses. “For me, there was a terrible vagueness about where the money would come from to meet the current expenditures,” says Phil, who is now almost debt-free. “A lot of the time, particularly at Christmas, people don’t want to think about loans because they can’t deal with not being able to have everything.”

In fact, the Christmas holidays—decked with hours of holiday and hard-to-shop specialty—can make even newbies feel like a compulsive shopper. Credit Counselling Services of Metropolitan Toronto reports that its high season is January and February, after people have received their Christmas-shopping statements and need help paying them off. Ennis holiday gift-giving, says Blahnik, is also rooted in guilt. “People use one day of the year to solve problems and make up for lost time,” he adds. “And with so much excitement from advertisers, some people don’t have enough esteem to say ‘No.’ As Carol, a shopaholic from a small town in southern Ontario, puts it: “I have a lot of wonderful friends, but I still feel I have to buy them.”

Compulsive shoppers, of course, cannot say no at the best of times. Norma, a 32-year-old high school teacher in New Brunswick, cut up his 11 credit cards two years ago—but not before he racked up a \$23,000 debt.

“Credit cards started riding my life,” he recalls. “I was borrowing from one to pay another, spending cash and using credit—it was an addiction.” He only went to Credit Counselling Services for help when, 1½ years ago, he realized he was in a depression. “I thought that at least if I wasn’t around, they wouldn’t be able to collect from me,” Norm says. Now, he swears by cash, which allows him to budget what he spends and has given him a sense of control. And Christmas, he adds, is no longer a time for spending beyond his means. “I’m now buying with my heart, not my money,” Norm says. “It’s no longer a matter of buy, wrap and give—and Christmas is more meaningful.” Not to mention affordable.

ANGELA FIERSE



# Testing the limits

A professor admits he was a prostitute

For several days last week, Gerald Hannon was receiving dozens of phone calls daily at his apartment, many 10th-floor condominiums in downtown Toronto that the freelance writer and general contractor let his answering machine take the messages. Some came from supportive friends and even strangers. But most of the calls were hate messages—"You going to cut your b—s off," and one, while Hannon wore three towels to his waist. The calls started after media revelations that, while teaching at Ryerson Polytechnic University, the longtime gay-rights activist had written favorably about adult child sex and also worked as a male prostitute. Flashed with this bit of news, Ryerson president Claude Larocque was puzzled the 50-year-old Hannon suddenly, with pay, and ordered an investigation into his conduct. Hannon responded that his suspension was an attack on academic freedom. "A university is not a European health spa," he said. "Students do not go in there to bathe in the waters of received wisdom. They go there to debate ideas."

Many of Hannon's students agreed. Several attended a Nov. 27 news conference, along with their dearest instructor. His union representatives and several academics, to discourage the university administration. As well, Ryerson's two student newspapers ran editorials supporting Hannon's right to teach provided he was not using the classroom as a platform to promote his personal views. Larocque refused to comment beyond a terse news release stating that Hannon was prohibited from contacting his students or entering the campus until the investigation was complete—by Dec. 22 at the latest. But Ontario's ethics minister, John Simcik, and the Conservative MP Gary Carr both expressed their disapproval of Hannon's behavior. "What the province should do is hire some standards of conduct," Carr said. "Set them, let everybody know and live by them."

Slight, friendly, sporting a mustache and wearing glasses, Hannon is no stranger to controversy. His first achieved notoriety for his views in late 1977, when an article he wrote entitled "Men loving boys loving men" appeared in *The Body Politic*, a now-defunct gay quarterly. The piece stirred his belief that, in same-sex, sexual relations between adults and children are acceptable, even ben-

eficial, for youngsters. Toronto police laid obscenity charges against him and the company that published the paper, which led to two criminal trials, both ending in acquittal.

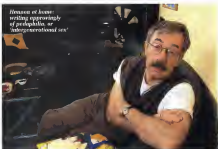
Then, in July, 1984, Hannon wrote an essay for *Xenia*, a gay literary journal, in which he compared child sex rings to organized hockey. "Both involved children and adults," he wrote. "Both involved strenuous physical activity (adult coaches taking the role of the adult coach). Both involved danger. Both involved pleasure. Yet we approve at children's

a try, and to my surprise it worked."

Some of Hannon's former students insisted that he should be judged solely on classroom performance, rather than lifestyle. Cathi Kelly, 23, a postgraduate journalism student, said that Hannon was open about his homosexuality but never used his teaching position as a platform for propagating his views. However, other students maintained that Hannon's beliefs, particularly about "intergenerational sex"—his explanation for pedophilia—made him unfit to teach. "His comments, especially those around pedophilia, are very disturbing," said student council president Paul Cheevers. "He's definitely pushed the limits of academic freedom."

However, several faculty members from other institutions, as well as the Writers Union of Canada, insisted that the suspension was a thinly disguised attack on academic freedom. David Hayde, a political science professor at the University of Toronto who spoke at Hannon's news conference,

Hannon at home, writing op-ed piece on pedophilia, or an "intergenerational sex"



hockey and deprive child sex rings."

Those statements did not receive wider attention—although some Ryerson journalism instructors were aware of them—and *The Toronto Star* wrote about them on Nov. 14. Hannon began an investigation of Hannon's classroom conduct—but only suspended him after the *Star* ran another stanza on Nov. 23: Hannon's admission that he works part-time as a prostitute. (The article was illustrated with a sensationally cropped photo of Hannon playing a male, gay-lesbian scene in a low-budget film scheduled for release in 1994.) Hannon said that he started hooking to support himself in 1980 after *The Body Politic* folded, and continued even after becoming an award-winning freelance writer. "I had friends who were hustlers and they told me there were markets for older guys with good bodies," he said. "I thought I'd give it

maintained that the Ryerson administration was using personal conduct as an excuse to suspend someone with unpopular opinions. "That goes against the core of what a university is about," he said. Ryerson journalism instructor Don Obe, who recommended Hannon for the job agreed. "The university has obligations," he said. "They're rolled over on the face of a minor complaint."

Despite such shows of support, Hannon's proscrit lifestyle and opinions left the Ryerson community deeply divided. "I told students and faculty to figure out the issue that's most important to you, and make your decision on that basis," chair John Miller said. "But I also told them that what ever you decide, it's going to be messy. There are parts of your decision that you're going to hate."

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Once a bubblegum-pop princess, Alanis Morissette is now the queen of ultra-hip rock

when she sang her current hit, the anthemic *Head in My Hands*, the crowd roared out the high fives and peace signs described in Morissette's lyrics right on cue. "She's not like other female singers," said 19-year-old Toronto MC/producer Tracy Smith after the show. "She's strong, without being bitchy. And men are into her as much as women."

Morissette's songs of revenge and redemption have certainly struck a chord with her raucous under-30 audience. *New Quebec Knows* and *Head in My Hands* have cracked the Top 10 on both sides of the border. And the hits have helped make Morissette's album, jagged *Little Pink*, one of the year's top sellers. Since its release in June, the record has sold more than four million copies in the United States and 300,000 copies in Canada. Meanwhile, Morissette has been visible on television and newsworlds all across North America. First, she landed high-profile appearances on *Saturday Night Live*, *The Late Show With David Letterman* and the MTV Video Music Awards. Then, last month, she scored the unprecedented coup of appearing on the covers of the two leading American music magazines, *Rolling Stone* and *Spin*, at the same time (yep, the former calling her "one of rock's most gifted vocalists"). Now in the midst of a sold-out North American tour, the singer and actress ac-

Performing in Toronto, more than 2,000 fans cheered on Morissette's every move

## MUSIC

# Adventures of Alanis in Wonderland

BY NICHOLAS JENNINGS

She is the newest cover girl for "alternative" rock, a popular answer to Courtney Love. Fans and critics throughout North America have embraced Ottawa native Alanis Morissette as rock's second coming—and this year's best coming stage story. Some observers are still scratching their heads over the transformation of the former bubblegum-pop princess into the queen of ultra-hip music. But for the self-styled crowd that packed Toronto's Warehouse club last week, there was no such bewilderment. The more than 2,000 fans cheered on Morissette's every move—every melodramatic toss of her hair, every dance—and seemed to know the words to every song. When she scolded her way through *New Quebec Knows*, her raw but charismatic attack on a former lover, they roared right back. When she howled at a man's sexual manipulations during *Right Through You*, they howled along with her. And

she suddenly finds herself one of the hottest acts in the business. Morissette's success in both the United States and Canada owes as much to savvy marketing as it does to her singing and songwriting abilities. And the launch of jagged *Little Pink* has been handled differently in each country. South of the border, where she signed with Maverick Records, the label owned by Madonna, Morissette's making her recording debut and has therefore been launched as a brand-new artist. Both Maverick and Morissette's Los Angeles-based manager, Scott Welch, have confidently staked Morissette as fan of alternative rock—which includes such less-commercial styles as grunge, thrash metal and rap-rock, and has everything to do with an anti-establishment attitude. But in Canada, where Morissette had two previous, dance-pop albums, Morissette's distributor, Warner Music Canada, had to take a more cautious approach. Captains Steve Waxman, Warner's press and publicity manager. "We knew that she might be up against prejudices be-

# Spirit for the moment.





## BOOKS

# When egos collide

*Mailer's Picasso book seems to be about himself*

### PORTRAIT OF PICASSO

AS A YOUNG MAN

By Norman Mailer  
(Random House, 490 pages, \$42)

In 1962, the New York City publishing firm Macmillan approached Norman Mailer with an idea for a book about another of the century's great egomaniacs, Pablo Picasso. Mailer, though not 40, was already gilding his persona of his achievement as a novelist and social critic, as the author of *The Naked and the Dead* (1948), *Barkery Shore* (1951), *The Deer Park* (1952) and *Advertisements for Myself* (1958). Mailer did some research on the Spanish artist, but the project got sidetracked somewhere into the general whorl of his literary persona. "I seem to recollect giving back the advance," Mailer says at the opening of his new book, *Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man*, a work that may well have been gestating in the au-

thor's subconscious for 35 years, but whose appearance at this late hour hardly seems worth the wait.

Two things have happened to virtually guarantee the relative unimportance of this extended biographical essay. The first is that, by now, Picasso's long and productive life (he died in 1973, at age 91, still famously making art) has been dissected, examined, interpreted, chronicled, explained and recounted for us a number of excellent biographers, including *A Life of Picasso*, the multi-volume work by British art historian John Richardson. The second development is that Mailer, who until middle age considered himself a mastermind of the political left, and so could sympathize with the young Picasso and the socialist and Marxist milieu of Barcelona out of which he came, has more recently been a mastermind of the rightist.

In his recent book on Lee Harvey Oswald, *Oswald's Tale: An American Mystery*, Mailer



used the notoriously unreliable autobiographer by Oswald's widow as one of his key sources, quoting from it at length, time and again. He could justify that particular project because he was also in possession of



some previously unpublished Oswald documents from police searches in the former Soviet Union. With Picasso, there can be no such sides patch. The only "new" stuff here—the memoir by Renzo Oliver, Picasso's first important model and lover—is new only in the sense that it has never been translated into English. Mailer uses it blue-ribbon paper, tacked at the rail. His next favorite source is the scandalous 1988 biography, *Picasso: Creator and Destroyer* by Arnette Stancopoulos-Hallington, a discredited political organizer and land-cropper in California. Hallington's chief source was Philippe Gilt, one of Picasso's embittered lovers. Hallington's conclusion was that Picasso was a youthful homosexual turned wife-beater.



Picasso began with the subject's birth in 1881, in Elche, how the baby was persecuted dead until an uncle "leaved over the stillbirth and exhaled great smoke into his nostrils. Picasso started. Picasso screamed. A genius came to life. His first breath must have entered on a rush of smoke, searing to the throat, scorching to his lungs, and lived with the stimulations of tobacco. It is not unfair to say that the harsh spirit of tobacco in sedition

absent from his work." Not unfair maybe, but silly and very overblown.

Mailer goes on to tell the familiar story of Picasso's migration to Paris in 1900, when he was 19. After soaking up the whole forest of the Montmartre district and its bohemian district and its bohemian district and its bohemian district as if they were glasses of wine, he settled, perhaps through the agency of close friend, at his own remarkable visual vocabulary, the Blue Period. He was a lusty youth of big appetites and bigger ailments. Where others were often shipped—most notably when, in 1911, his good friend and minister Guillaume Apollinaire was arrested for the possession of some statues stolen from the Louvre—Picasso, in fact, Picasso had purchased from a third party Apollinaire was arrested while attempting to return them to the Louvre and spent several days in jail. Picasso, meanwhile, failed to go to his friend's rescue. When he was called in for questioning, he at first claimed never to have met the poet. Finally, the truth came out, and Apollinaire got a provisional release.

Like most, if not all, of Mailer's books, and especially those of recent years, Picasso is full of both clever epigrams and risible epigrams. Epigrams: "It is the essence of middle-class education that art is reckless, art is positively criminal. So it is prudent to domestic it, to surround talent with security." Goethe: "At the turn of the century, Montmartre was not without connection to the Lower East Side of New York as it is today."

Commenting on Picasso's account of Apollinaire's arrest as quoted in *Paris-Picasso* almost 30 years later—the gesture's lame excuse for absconding the poet was that he was "terribly frightened"—Mailer calls the story "pure Picasso. Hallucinate and half-truth. At work is always to support his legend, he did want to tell something of the truth. He wishes to be revised; he also wishes to be understood." Mailer might also be writing about himself here. But then he usually is.

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Sam McLaughlin: from manufacturer of buggies to a founder of GM Canada

**BOOKS**

## Life in the slow lane

**DRIVING FORCE: THE McLAUGHLIN FAMILY AND THE AGE OF THE CAR**  
 By Heather Robertson

(McClelland & Stewart, 400 pages, \$24.95)

At the beginning of her "Notes and Sources" appendix, Heather Robertson writes "This is the first book to be written about the McLaughlins of Ontario and General Motors of Canada." Robertson's book shows why the McLaughlins were, at best, unimpaired beneficiaries: managers and, by my measure, pretty dull folk. The family patriarch, Robert McLaughlin, began making auto buggies in Ontario in the mid 1890s. Later, he manufactured buggies because the profit margin was bigger. As the century drew to a close, however, the family's extreme social spirit, such as it was, waned and quit. The McLaughlins never did create their own car. When they finally got into the automobile business in 1907—over the objections of Robert, who

thought in 1901—they did so by attaching McLaughlin manufacturing to vehicles assembled in Ontario from McLaughlin-manufactured bodies and parts made in Michigan, all of which had been conceived and designed by David Buick. It does not add up to much of a business story. But Robertson's account in *Driving Force* offers a glimpse into the accurate but shallow mentality that helped define—the better or worse—much of Canada's industrial character.

As Toronto magazine writer and author Robertson tells us, the McLaughlins had a good thing going in reuniting U.S. auto parts. That when, in December, 1918, GM made them a tidily-labeled lacrimae offer that they could not refuse, they sold their enterprise to the American giant a decade after

they had started. Then, Robert's two sons, Robert Samuel (Sam) and George, embarked on their main vocation: eating dried cherries and amusing themselves. George worked at being clever and parsimonious, increasing his efforts in that direction following his 1934 retirement from the post of vice-president of GM Canada. He died in 1942. The chief occupations of his brother, Sam—who became president of GM Canada and vice-president of the American parent after the McLaughlins sold their business—were aging the style of the American rubber house he carried, and angling for a laugh-line. He died in 1952.

The McLaughlins did not generate much in the way of scandal or drama; they had just

enough passion to muster as occasional passionate resentments and wistfulness over-reactions. Driven to the book's endnotes from the titanic struggles of the U.S. automakers and their corporate battles (it came from the fight of General Motors workers to be treated as something other than cheap, expendable plant equipment). And it comes from a *Forcing* account of a 1951 lawsuit involving *Amor* of General Motors' Lucy Maud Montgomery, stemming from an automobile collision (Neff's party was driving a McLaughlin car). Robertson brightens her narrative with similar glimpses of the wider car culture throughout the book.

Robertson labors mightily to minimize the McLaughlins' saga. But it is difficult to warm to the self-absorbed Sam and the volatility as related George. Robertson is to be admired for presenting what appear to be honest portraits of her subjects. Too bad she chose such lackluster ones.

JUSTIN SMALLERIDGE



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A message from the Janssen Education Division



Quinn (left), Mrs. Brady, Kono, making reparations with insight and compassion

### TELEVISION

## The 'enemy' within

THE WAR BETWEEN US  
(CBC, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.)

The open tracks carry hundreds of people huddled beneath black umbrellas. They have no idea what awaits them at the end of the dirt road winding through the mountains. That is one of many potent images in *The War Between Us*, a drama about the forced resettlement of 22,000 Japanese-Canadians (three-quarters of them Canadian nationals) during the Second World War. Set in backwoods British Columbia, and focusing on a white household and a Japanese family due to be relocated to the slacked next door, the two-hour movie is filled with memorable scenes.

At one point, an embittered Japanese patriarch burns his First World War army uniform. At another, a white girl and Japanese boy transcend race as they embrace in a kiss at night.

Several people involved in the production have a personal connection to the resettlement. One is screenwriter Sharon Gibson, whose grandfather, then in his late 30s and living in British Columbia's Skeena Valley, had an interned Japanese-Canadian as a housekeeper. Such real-life links clearly contributed to the movie's authentic feel. Under Anne Wheeler's direction, the characters emerge vividly, memorably real, clashing in the differing way that people do—especially when it comes to relinquishing their bigotry.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the

Canadian government, citing security reasons, ordered that all Japanese-Canadians living within 100 miles of the Pacific coast be removed to the U.C. interior, Alberta or Manitoba. *The War Between Us* begins with the expulsion from Vancouver of the Kowashimas, whose father (Robert Ito, who was interned during the war) owns a boat-building business. At first, Kanasaka and his wife (Ruby Iwaki), daughter Aya (Mako Ochi) and son Mas (Edmond Kato) adjust—and condoned to—their new white neighbors. The xenophobia of the small logging town, meanwhile, is magnified by wartime hysteria.

Peg (Sharon Lawson) and Ed (Robert Warden), Parnham are initially frightened by and resentful of the comparatively well-off Kowashimas, who end up being close by that brendishers slowly develop after Peg

hires Aya as a housekeeper. Eventually, Mas and Peg's eldest daughter, Mary, fall in love.

For the most part, the acting is solid. The standards are the women playing the two lead characters. Ductl managers with subtle grins to convey the very reserved Aya's feelings, Lawson's Peg is compelling—a biologically decent but ignorant person whose raw intelligence allows her to withstand the tide of prejudice. A powerful condemnation of the wrong that was done to Japanese-Canadians, *The War Between Us* makes reparations with insight and compassion.

### OPERA

## Hymns to anarchy

RED EMMA

Music by Gary Kulesha  
Libretto by Carol Bolt  
Directed by Donald Wilman

On any list of the past century's great women, Emma Goldman would have to take a prominent place. An activist, feminist and a brilliant speaker for the cause of social justice, the Lithuanian-born Goldman spent most of her adult life in the United States, although she also lived briefly in Canada, dying in Toronto in 1935, at the age of 71. In 2004, Goldman was the subject of *Red Emma: Queen of the Anarchy*, a drama by Canadian playwright Carol Bolt. That play is now the basis for a new opera, *Red Emma*, with a libretto by Bolt and music by Canadian Opera Company composer-rehearsal Gary Kulesha. The CBC production, which premiered last week at Toronto's do Myster Theatre Centre, is vibrant, subtle, oppressive, involving and lovable by turns—an almost perfectly balanced example of what is both right and wrong in the world of contemporary "outcast" music.

As the opera opens in the 1890s, 29-year-old Emma (the role is shared by Anna Krasov) is a young woman who has just joined a group of New York City anarchists. These radical ideologists are campaigning—sometimes with bombs and guns—to get rid of all governments and other forms of external control, in order to liberate humans to their full potential. Emma goes on to have affairs with several of her comrades, and also becomes involved in a bungled plot to assassinate industrialist Henry Clay Frick (Robert Mord). Not surprisingly, chaos results, and Emma is forced to do some rapid growing up.

David Wilson's staging is bold as violence and subtle in detail, and the music in its turns superbly sang. But far all its due, natural beauty, Gary Kulesha's score too often lacks melodic power. While it astutely avoids cliché, it is a prisoner of the current trend against operatic and orchestral outpourings of anything the sort of emotions that are the backbone of the great operas of the past. Kulesha also writes so extensively in the minor key that *Red Emma* generates a wearying sense of imbalance and mental oppression. Such music may be technically admirable and thematically appropriate, but no one will ever sing it in the shower.

PATRICIA BLOCH

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# Revenge and revelry

Two for the jugular; one for the funny bone

## THE CROSSING GUARD

Directed by Sean Penn

At the heart of this moody, melancholic drama is an incredible coupling: Jack Nicholson and Angelina Jolie, co-heroes in real life, play ex-spouses who pick over the pieces of their shattered relationship with regret, revulsion and love. Nicholson and Jolie have worked together before, in *Twister* (1996) and *The Crossing Guard*, under the intimate direction of their friend Sean Penn, but neither a rose, emotional power that surpasses anything either of them has done before. In fact, their scenes have such shocking resonance that the rest of the movie seems pale in comparison.

The film, which Penn also scripted, is about anger, guilt and compassion. Nicholson embodies the anger. He plays Freddy, an exiled jewel thief obsessed with avenging the death of his young daughter by a hit-and-run driver—he has vowed to kill the man as soon as he is released from prison. The driver, a remorseful soul named John (David Morse), embodies the guilt. And Freddy's ex-wife, Mary (Jolie), who has remarried since their daughter's death, serves up the compassion.

From the opening images, which cut between Freddy watching a stripper perform bareback with a lit-up torch and Mary taking part in a therapy group, Penn spells out his characters' moral choices in stark relief. Framed by a new brace, Springfield-dope addict Mary (the story is set in a desolate Los Angeles), and, like Penn's last movie, *The Indian Runner* (1991), his second feature plumbs the darkness on the edge of Springfield's America—a heartland without a heart beat.

Penn's brooding, atmospheric style is almost entirely gratis. And the director's all-too-common, formulaic tangents, notably a dumb romantic subplot involving Robin Wright (as ex-wife), that the lead performances are superb. Once the cocaine-craze drama finally kicks in, *The Crossing Guard* achieves a level of compelling pathos.

HELEN DA JOHNSON

## TYD STORY

Directed by John Lasseter

OK, it is already huge, towering over office records like some gargantuan piece of merchandise going bankrupt in Santa's workshop. But that is no reason to hate it: *Ty To Story*, the wondrous of Hollywood's Disney

man thing, is wonderful. Although it carries the Disney name, it is remarkably free of the machine addition and social baggage that make much of the studio's animation less so. *Ty To Story*, in fact, is mainly the distributor. *Ty To Story*, the first full-length computer-animated feature, is the brainchild of Pixar Animation Studios, run by Apple Computer co-founder Steven Jobs. It introduces its audience to a new dimension of 3-D cartoon realism that seems quite miraculous. But the technical artistry comes with some scary subtext—and an irrelevant wit.

The film's neo-Noir premise in-



*Ty To Story* action: the technical artistry comes with smart software—and wit

volves a boy's collection of toys that turn alive when no one is around. They are led by a cowboy named Woody (voiced by a drill Toon Hanks), whose supremacy is challenged by a noise new product named Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen). Buzz suffers from the delusion that he is an actual spaceship and not a toy. Treacherous stars when Woody and Buzz fall into the hands of the devious big bad, who likes to torture toys with fire-crackers and make mutants out of them.

The graphics wizardry is sublime. How else could toy soldiers march with such convincing new down a skipping rope? But the movie's real genius is in the way it marries the high-tech magic to the old-fashioned charm of low-tech toys—such legendary items as Mr. Potato Head, Slinky Dog and Mr. Potato Head. *Ty To Story* is a treat for sophisticated of all ages

## WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

Directed by Lianou Nolasco

The wonder is that no one hit on the concept sooner: a taggy-turvy America with blacks controlling the wealth and whites constituting the underclass. And currently, it took someone outside the country's main racial dynamic, Japanese-American filmmaker Lianou Nolasco, to invert the white-black architecture of the United States on the big screen. The society portrayed in *White Man's Burden* is similar to the one that Canadians perceive north of the border (and, some would argue, at home), except in reverse. The movie's two main co-ordinators are Thaddeus Thomas (Harry Belafonte), a wealthy and cultured black businessman, and Louis (Patrick Swayze), who loses his job in the chocolate factory owned by Thomas and lives with his family in a low-income slum. Early in the movie, Thaddeus asserts to his well-to-do (and all-black) dinner guests that, whether because of genetics or socialization, whites appear to be "people who are beyond being

helped." While Mr. Belafonte goes on to show that no amount of "help" could make a difference when such bigotry is the main pattern in the social fabric.

Initially, the film's simple premise has no impact. While viewers get a sterling sense of what it must be like for blacks to see nearly white faces on TV and in advertising, and to work for and be patronized by people of another race. But writer-director Nolasco overdoes it.

In his upside-down America, there are no poor blacks and no middle-class whites. And while Belafonte is effective as a calm member of the colored ruling class, Swayze plays a condescending patronization proof. The story, meanwhile, gets increasingly original as it culminates in a peripatetic tale of martyrdom. The problem with *White Man's Burden* is that Nolasco's vision is far too black and white

B. D.A.

PATRICIA HELGUY

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# Explaining Mexico and sex in space

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

**A**s someone who is paid to observe the human race with all its propensity and protocol, we do not find it odd at all. In fact and to truth, it is good, and this does not even include politics. You would like examples, of course. We give you only two to suffice. Sex in outer space. And Mexico. That should satisfy all.

It turns out that 34 years after Yuri Gagarin became the first human to rocket into space—and while the plans are to send astronauts to Mars—there is still no research on what we down on earth call a lone traveler. Science reporter Stephen Strassus, a chap with his eye on the important matters, has revealed that authorities in charge of the area are extremely nervous about producing, as we say, the subject.

Yelena Kondakova spent 189 days in space with male comrades on the Russian space station Mir in 2004 and on one yet knows whether their relations lacked in. When in 2002 the first husband-wife team, Mark Lee and Jan Davis, flew on the American space shuttle Endeavour, the NASA biologists could not they were not an opposing 12-hour working shifts—while part of the mission was long reproduction experiments.

Are they the only ones who can get it up? As usual, there is no expert. One Patricia Soto, a former flight engineer with NASA, states that there is "unfounded evidence" that males can get erections and ejaculate in zero gravity and says, "If you can do it in the back seat of a 1957 Chevy, you can do it anywhere."

That is indeed reassuring to those of us with a bad back. But NASA is nervous, plus may only a subsequent program on the International Space Station scheduled for 2002.

This nonsense leads us to Mexico, on other hand. Due to the deep demands of research and standards, poor humble scribbler has been forced to spend some time over the last three years in that strange place where nothing makes sense.

Anyone who has spent any time there would have to be blind to the nonsense, as Ottavio said us, that Mexico could walk out



of its Third World status and become one of the instant "three amigos" with us and Wash.

Mexico, in its feudal business, has a unique logic in politics. By law, its president can serve only one six-year term and cannot be re-elected. Because of this brilliant system, there has never been an ex-president who has not retired as a millionaire.

The current expert, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, is presently on his way somewhere in Montreal, so not in the back back home. His brother Raúl is in the shrimper in Mexico City, charged with unchaining the murder of the secretary general of the ruling (since the 1980) Institutional Revolutionary Party—an enormous if we've ever heard of one.

Raúl, with a \$700,000 salary by his brother's cabinet, somehow managed to stash \$7 million in his bank account and acquired 29 estates spreaded across Mexico. His wife was

arrested in Switzerland while attempting to withdraw \$1.15 million from a bank account. It is assumed she was carrying a suitcase.

These are the people, we must be reminded, who were going to connect our great free trade agreement that "from the Yukon to the Yucatan" was going to make the world better for welfare means. It was going to extend to Chile, hope of military democracy, but the Mexican papers have cooled all those thoughts.

The American offensive against the drug moguls in Colombia has resulted in just one thing. The unstable US goes for cocaine and heroin has now the drug conduit to Mexico, which has the advantage of proximity.

Raúl Salinas, here in the press, had the tale of the man in charge of all imported material into the country. Preside, a millionaire who is unfortunately in prison.

The ex-president, from his Mexican balcony when he is not in Cuba under an assumed name, has issued a stern statement that he is "amazed" to be advised that his brother had accumulated such loot.

This is hilariously reminiscent of the new rule almost equal out of Canada where the Claude Basso figure shouts that he is "Shocked! Shocked!" to learn there is gambling going on in Humphrey Bogart's low-life den.

We are shocked, shocked, to remember that Carlos Salinas' war against his own people was deflected by the anti-Mexican—who opposed free trade while in opposition—as "a great democracy." And who tried to push the neo-term Salinas, along with Bill Clinton's Washington, as head of an unimpaired century agency.

One should not worry about these things. Some people go into exile in one country. Others go into exile in others. That's what Lacandon says is let. The Earth's history all end up in Mexico.

Sex in space is an sure crass that the Mexican system, which ensures that every one high in politics ends up rich. And all the guys in red suspenders on Wall Street who inflated the peso bailed out at the same moment a year ago and left the shaming Mexican middle class with interest rates that at one time passed 100 per cent.

Which is why the bookends in the southern hills, once thought of as craters, are frightening the pants off the roadrunners in Washington and Ottawa who actually thought Salinas and all his fellow Harvard graduates knew what they were doing.

Government officials don't know anything about sex in space—any more than they do about people who steal. Which is why they are government officials.



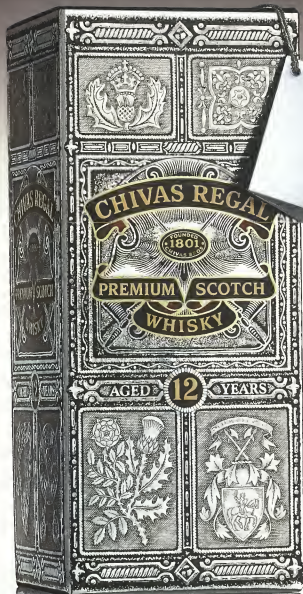
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